JOHN BULL

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For meaning of this number see page iii. of Cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

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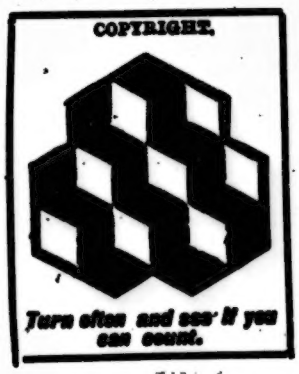

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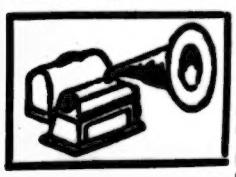

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JOHN BULL.

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Vol. V. No. 126. Saturday, October 31st, 1908. One Penny.

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THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

Winter is coming, and men are out of work. Women are beginning to wonder how long they and the children can hold out—and the little ones are looking wistfully at their mothers for more food and warmth. Never mind the loafers and the wasters. Let us just rivet our thoughts upon the victims of the industrial tide—they who ebb and flow with it, year in and year out. What can we do for them? The Government says, Give the local authorities three hundred thousand pounds for relief work, encourage them by Loans to take in hand their various projects, and let all the big spending departments get on as quickly as possible with whatever programmes they have in hand. It is a well-meant policy—cautious, anti-Socialistic, and not too unorthodox an intrusion into the sacred realms of Political Economy. But is there *food*, is there *clothing*, is there *firing* in it? *That* is the question.

The difficulty of the problem is intensified by the necessity for keeping it distinct and apart from Charity. The self-respecting workman doesn't understand why there is no market for his labour, and, above all, he doesn't appreciate the "economic" difficulty in the way of the "State" finding him employment. But one thing he is clear about—he will *not* be called a pauper. All honour to him for his independence. Well, what is at the bottom of the trouble, and what is the remedy?

Here is the answer. First, unlike our Continental neighbours, we have no big standing army. In Germany, in France, in Austria, there is always this automatic absorption of adult energy. Just look at the figures. Germany, with a population of 61,000,000, has an army of 3,788,000. France, with its 39,000,000 people, maintains 3,112,000 soldiers; and Austria-Hungary with 46,000,000, has 2,120,000; whilst we, with our 43,000,000, have only 460,000 under colours. Secondly, Socialism—using the phrase in the crude sense of representing antagonism to all forms of private capital—is steadily frightening British capital away from the country. The Income Tax returns disclose a startling increase in profits derived from investments abroad—and the item will receive a stimulus every time the crowd is advised to "rush" either a baker's shop or the House of Commons.

And the remedy? *The establishment of a Government of business men.* Then we would take in hand some of the derelict canals, and make them into motor roads; we would pull down all the slum areas and put up sanitary houses; we would run a service of motor collecting vans for the produce of small farms; we would tax foreign investments five shillings in the pound, and we would do a score of other things out of which, in every case, the State would make a good profit. Oh, how weary we are of these armchair, bookwise politicians!

Austria is becoming quite a filibuster. She places ships in the Adriatic to intercept wireless telegrams, she interferes with private letters going to and from Montenegro, and now she has arrested a diplomatic agent passing through her territory, seized his papers and searched his luggage. Such a thing has never been done since the barbarous ages when a declaration of war used to be followed by the imprisonment of ambassadors. It looks as though civilised nations will have to unite to reiterate Mr. Gladstone's old cry of "Hands off, Austria!"

The ways of magistrates are past finding out. A man who shot at a lady motorist with a catapult and wounded her on the head was fined 16s. 6d., including costs. This new form of sport is likely to become popular, on account of its cheapness.

An old horse-thief of 86 seems to have been rather harshly treated in receiving a sentence of ten years' penal servitude. He may have been a very wicked old man, but the Chairman of the West Kent Quarter Sessions was decidedly brutal in remarking, "I do not think you will steal any more horses." We almost sympathise with the prisoner's ironical inquiry, "Cannot you give me a bit more?" A man of 86 can scarcely be held responsible for his actions. We are inclined to favour the introduction of an age limit for convicts.

Out of a sum of £13,000 spent by the City Corporation on pensions to old officers, it is instructive to note that an ex-assistant master of the Orphan School receives £125, while a former porter at the same institution gets £132!

The days of Isvolsky are numbered. His joint muddle with Sir Edward Grey over the proposed Congress and the premature publication of details has sickened everybody all round. He will probably be succeeded by Charikoff, who was privy to the Servian murders and witnessed them through the blinds of his house at Belgrade. Charikoff is an utterly unscrupulous and dangerous diplomatist.

The Government can't apparently make up its mind what to do about grocers' licences. First, they were to be brought entirely within the purview of the Licensing Bill, but evidently this was too big an order for the grocery fraternity, and now only the "monopoly value," if any, is to be dealt with. Thus Local Option is not to apply, and, consequently, as fast as you close public-houses, you may counteract the effect—if any—by increasing the number of stores at which wines and spirits may be bought, and by means of which secret drinking, especially among women, may be encouraged.

Apropos, let us look at the facts disclosed at an inquest the other day, held on the body of an old woman of 78, who had been in the habit of "drinking a bottle of whisky in a few hours." Death was found to have been accelerated by drink, obtained chiefly from grocers. And in his evidence the doctor said: "I know from experience that grocers' licences are the cause of a large amount of secret drinking—in many cases among women, without their husbands knowing anything about it for a long time." No wonder Messrs. W. and A. Gilbey are able to advertise that "about every tenth bottle of wine and thirty-third bottle of spirits consumed in the United Kingdom is supplied through their agents." We must have a word with the Prime Minister about this.

And we must also look into some of these school attendance scandals. We have already mentioned the case of a woman, just confined with her sixteenth child, with ten at home under eleven years of age, being fined for not sending one of them to school. And here, again, is a mother of eight—three of them being under two years of age—being prosecuted for keeping the oldest, whose attendances are 80 per cent. for the past year, at home on washing day to mind the babies! As a correspondent says, what scope for sarcasm:—"Nursing a baby sister, illegal."

If Uncle Sam had enough time to spare from the amenities of the Presidential election, he would probably be biting his nails at this moment over the reception given by the Japs to Admiral Sperry and his fleet. Not that anything has been lacking; quite the contrary. The Mikado has risen to more than adequate heights, and has done things, if anything, rather too well. Big Stick Roosevelt, it will be remembered, organised this cruise while the clouds were still heavy in the air over the school question in California, and he designed it, among other things, to impress upon the Japanese that America was strong enough not to stand any nonsense. Unhappily, Japan has gone one better. Admiral Sperry has arrived at Yokohama with fourteen battleships (having sent on two in advance to the Mediterranean), and he finds himself greeted by a mobilised Japanese fleet of a hundred and fifty ships. It is rather too hard on you, Uncle, because you do so like to be top dog; but then, you started the game yourself.

By the way, seeing the enormous success that has attended this world-cruise of the American Fleet so far, and seeing, too, that our kinsmen in the southern Pacific have never yet set eyes on a modern British battleship, wouldn't it be a good thing if our own Admiralty were to organise a world-cruise for the British Fleet? Imagine the reception awaiting a squadron of our latest battleships and cruisers, with the *Dreadnought* and *Indomitable* at its head, in the many Britains overseas. Send out a fleet that will bear comparison with Admiral Sperry's command and with anything it may happen to meet on the way, and you will do more to consolidate the Empire than a dozen conferences or a tariff wall as high as Everest. If it is to be done at all, though, it will have to be done soon. To-day we have plenty of ships to spare for the work, without leaving our front doors open to chance enquirers. Leave it until a couple of years hence and we shall want all the ships we've got—and probably a few others besides—to keep the wolf away. The American Fleet is not to call at any of our home ports, but it might be possible to organise the British Squadron in time to meet it, say, at Gibraltar, so as to give the world a chance of seeing exactly what Anglo-Saxondom stands for. Imagine, if you can, a better universal policeman than an Anglo-Saxon fleet, ready to cuff the ears of noisy little boys like—but there, never mind. But just imagine it.

What a chance there is for a daily paper which would leave out all mention of George Bernard Shaw, whether as playwright, author, journalist—or as the Genius of Self-Advertisement. We are sick unto death of G. B. S. and his attitudinising; we are sicker, if possible, of his idolaters. Shavian, forsooth; what has the English language done that it should be maltreated for the benefit of this inveterate *poseur*. We suppose Mr. Shaw will turn the tables by saying that we can't be sicker of him than he is of himself. But such a reply does nothing to justify a further lease of publicity. The business of an inspector of nuisances is to remove the nuisance, not to argue with it.

What is the "second mashing" of tea? Ask any young man lodger whose terms with the landlady include "plain tea"—or any meek and mild husband, who, like the good young man that died, always comes home to his tea. It is a fearful wishy-washy fluid, consisting of luke-warm water, faintly coloured with tannin and strongly flavoured with verdigris. But in the opinion of the manager of the Refreshment Department of the Midland Railway Company, it is just the thing for the attendants in the restaurant cars of their trains. Here is a staff notice recently issued:—

MIDLAND RAILWAY HOTELS AND REFRESHMENT DEPT.

From Chief London Office.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR GUARD BOOK. 24th September, 1908.

ISSUE OF STAFF TEA.

Please note, no more staff tea will in future be issued to the Dining Cars. Plenty of tea can be obtained from the second mashing of the tea, for the staff. Acknowledge receipt. M. TOWLE.

In the name of the great travelling public we protest. If it is to be a choice between the tea and the mashing, give us the mashing; and let the staff go about their business.

The number of accidents to railway servants is a growing scandal. Men are maimed or killed with appalling frequency, and the compensation is wholly inadequate. If the companies can wriggle out by alleging negligence, they always do so. There ought to be a watchman at every dangerous junction to supervise porters and others who are compelled to venture on the track.

The railway combine is raising many grievances. Faithful old servants are being given a choice between reduction of wages and resignation, while the highly-paid sinecurists are undisturbed. The question of nationalising railways will soon have to be considered very seriously. But the servants of the State railways must have better treatment than postal officials are able to secure at present.

There is something in the suggestion that the system of Commercial Attachés inaugurated by Mr. Lloyd George, when he was at the Board of Trade, should be recruited from the ranks of experienced commercial travellers. We commend the idea to Mr. Churchill.

Apropos our exposure of Smyth-Pigott the Lustful, we have naturally received a very large amount of correspondence. The following seems to "take the biscuit" as an illustration of very practical Christianity:

> I have read your article about "The Abode of Love," and I am quite willing to expose the "Messiah-ship" of the man Pigott, as he has no supernatural powers at his back.
>
> If you are really in earnest for the good of your fellow-countrymen, you have now the chance of my ofier.
>
> I will go and preach two sermons at a hall near by the "Abode" for £5, with you present.
>
> The alternative would be for you to take subscriptions in your paper for me to carry out the business of the "True Gospel of Christ" near by in the county of Somerset.
>
> There is an old chapel for sale at Blagdon, which can be hired cheaply, or bought.
>
> I cannot take up the work entirely (or part time), as my employers will require me to resign my situation.
>
> Of course, two sermons preached near the "Abode." will not effect my situation.
>
> I may say that I see no other way to have Pigott entirely finished off than by some other person exposing him, who has the full power of Christ at his disposal.
>
> If you forward me the cheque for the £5, I will send back a stamped agreement to preach at some hall near by "The Abode," after you have well advertised the same. I am non-Sectarian, entirely-on-Christ, "The Prophet of God."
>
> P.S.—I have been over ten years spreading the Truth according to our Prophet, Priest, and King Jesus.

We may add that the writer describes himself as a "Britannic Seer." So are we.

The Government did not come very well out of our interrogation as to the composition of the recent anti-Licensing Bill Demonstration in Hyde Park. Lord Crewe had publicly stated that the demonstration consisted of "imported inebriates," in which case one would have expected to find that the Commissioner of Police had made a report on the subject to the Home Office. Mr. Gladstone, however, admits that no such report was received, and, further, that the arrests for drunkenness in London on the day of the demonstration did not exceed the average. Considering that half-a million of "imported inebriates" were in the Metropolis on that day, this admission is surely significant, and should silence Lord Crewe and his fellow fanatics. Let us fight the fight fairly and squarely, and not resort to the methods of the Old Bailey practitioner.

Here's an interesting sidelight on our system of party government. The other night, Mr. Cave moved an amendment to make it quite clear that the right of appeal to Quarter Sessions should be preserved. The Solicitor-General, on behalf of the Government, maintained that this right was not taken away, and quoted various words in the section under discussion in support of his contenion. Then came the division, and this is what we overheard:—

Liberal Member (*hurriedly entering the House*): "What is the division about?"

Fellow Member: "Oh, Cave is Chairman of Quarter Sessions, and wishes to give a right of appeal to them, *but the Government won't have it.*"

(Exit arm-in-arm to the Division Lobby.)

We note with pleasure that Lord Alfred Stiggins has adopted a suggestion which we gave him in jest. He has now written to the Chief Rabbi to question the morals of a book published by Mr. Heinemann, and to Dr. W. G. Grace, because Mr. Heinemann's partner happens to be a cricketer. But why leave out Smyth-Pigott?

Austrian warships are reported to have intercepted wireless telegraphic messages between Antivari and Bari. Surely this is a gross interference with the sovereign rights of Montenegro and Italy. It is the latest thing in piracy.

In connection with the lock-out, it is interesting to note that the Cardroom Workers' Union allows women and children to vote on questions of policy. This bears out the theory put forward by some anti-suffragists that if you give women the franchise, you are logically bound to give it also to children. They pay indirect taxes, it is said, and they are directly interested in the details of legislation to the same extent as women are. Why not, therefore, give them votes? Certainly there are many bright boys and girls whose votes would be given much more intelligently than many which are now recorded in obedience to party discipline.

The point has been raised whether even the best bachelor can make a good statesman. However that may be, there is at least one office of state in which marriage should exercise a specially salutary influence upon the nobler and deeper thoughts of its occupant. Heaven and earth cry out in unison against a Chancellor of the Exchequer who has not a wife to buy hats for and a few children with an eternal lorging for boots. Such an one is likely to be a peril to the State and an oppressor of the community. To a bachelor, the news that butter has risen, that new Paris hats are on show, and that the children want soleing and heeling may be of little import, and he may thus approach a scheme for "broadening the basis of taxation" with less anxiety and greater zest than a married man. But in politics generally it were, peradventure, easier to become a statesman first and get a wife afterward than *vice versa*. Even Mr. Gladstone was "the rising hope of the stern and unbending Tories" before he took to himself a wife, and Dizzy had made a reputation long before he married the excellent lady who was old enough to be his mother. A young politician should never be caught singing "Put me among the girls." He should shun delights and live laborious days; and when he has made a position in the game, there is no reason why he should not marry a wife and make a little more; for, despite the awful slump in business, wives are still to be had worth their weight in gold. And this is the sort of wife every politician with ambition should secure.

That was an unusually obliging father who appeared before the seat of judgment in Marylebone Police Court a few days ago, when his daughter, a nursemaid of nineteen, was charged with stealing. "If your Worship thinks a jolly good whacking will do Her good, I will answer for it that she gets it," was his magnanimous offer. Now that was all very well; but the difficulties in the way of effectively whacking a girl of nineteen are innumerable, and in the interests of national sport it seems a pity that this Spartan parent did not explain in detail the process of his physical artistry. A policeman careless of the blush of shame on the cheek of modesty might, if called in, do much useful work in Christian endeavour with a strap, a slipper, or even a birch; the lady might not resist him in the execution of his duty. How it would fall out with her father in similar case is beyond the hazard of prophecy. There are moments when fathers, like nations, overstep the sphere of influence, and whacking a nineteen-year-old daughter would probably be one of them.

We hope that by this time next year the Chancellor of the Exchequer will have made an effort to give the man with an earned income the advantage of it without any official or legal jiggery-pokery. Under the existing Finance Act a man must make the return of his

income before the 30th of September of the year current. If he does not do that he is taxed at the shilling instead of the ninepenny rate. But there are hundreds of brain-workers earning a more or less precarious livelihood who cannot possibly say in September how much or how little they will have earned for the year ending the following April. The practice has always been to permit them to postpone their return until the end of the financial year. But last year's Finance Act, so far as the reduction for earned incomes is concerned, was largely a financial fake. If a brain-worker of precarious and uncertain income postpones making his return in accord with the practice, he deprives himself of the reduction of 3d. on earned income, and has to pay 1s. in the £. This is not equitable. It takes away with one hand what it gives with the other; and leaves hundreds of people no better off under the earned income clauses than they were under the old Act. In Government departments the public has a right to expect finance without footle.

A curious reason for keeping all the public clocks in a constant state of unveracity is given by the Secretary of the British Horological Association, Mr. J. Savidge, who says that the compulsory synchronisation of clocks is contrary to accepted ideas of freedom, and would operate injuriously on the clockmaking trade. Now it is true that there is not, and never has been, such a thing as a clock which keeps time. As David said in his haste, all clocks are liars. Some clocks reveal a wider departure from what may be called mean veracity than others. But once a day, at least, there is a means of correction through the Observatory at Greenwich; and it seems to us that if a tradesman, or an institution, or a Government hangs out a clock for public use that clock should be put in the way of truth once in every twenty-four hours. If we cannot trust it to keep us up to time in catching trains, weddings, funerals, and meals, it has no justification for existence, and should be arrested either for obstruction or for creating a nuisance. If all public clocks told the same kind of lie or the same kind of truth at the same moment of time, no great inconvenience would result. Men may be justified by faith, but clocks are justified only by their works.

The rewards of heroism are usually uncertain. Too much depends upon the accident of an audience and the opportunity of an advertisement. One man may obey a natural impulse and pull someone out of fire or water with the result that he is inundated with medals and testimonials and the praise of the Press. Another may perform an action fifty times more heroic and then walk away unnoticed. These reflections are inspired by some remarks which we have received from a correspondent at Limehouse, who observes upon the number of brave deeds performed at sea, and accepted as a matter of course. Let him give one of his own experiences in his own words:—"Last year, on a voyage from New South Wales to Valparaiso, during very heavy weather and very cold, a lad fell overboard (the swell was very strong, and a man's chances in it seemed nil), but our second mate was over the side directly, and managed to regain the ship's side and hang on to a rope with the boy. Suffice it to say, all hands were aloft and the wind so strong that they did not hear the 'Man overboard!' cry, so the mate hung there, while the ship, rolling heavily, pulled him right out of the water one second, and doused him in it the next. At last another man, Joseph, went over the side to give assistance, and there was a sight for you, both clad in heavy sea-boots and oilskins. To cut a long story short, two of us managed to haul the lad on board, and then the second mate, who was cramped with cold and unable to move a finger to help himself. During this time Joseph had to let go his hold of the rope, and failed to grasp another one and drifted, struggling to his death. The weather would not allow a boat to be launched, no boat would have lived one minute in such a sea. I cannot write much about it, but just use that incident to illustrate my point. Did either of those men get any recognition? Yes, the one who was alive got thanks from the rescued lad; and the poor fellow Joseph, a coloured man from Mauritius, what of him? Well, his mother will receive, I presume, a formal notification from the Consul of Valparaiso that her son has been 'drowned at sea,' and there the incident closes. I would, if *I* had the ability, try to perpetuate some of those actions, which are of common occurrence in the Merchant Service." It is noteworthy that popular enthusiasm concerns itself almost exclusively with the Royal Navy, while the Merchant Service remains a sort of Cinderella, neglected by Parliament (for it is not a political force), ill-paid, ill-fed, remaining now in a condition scarcely more tolerable than that of fifty years ago.

Here is a tall story from the *Wimbledon Gazette*: "A woman fell into the Barnsley Canal, and an angler near by was so engrossed with his rod that he did not notice the woman until some men shouted to him that a woman was drowning. The angler failed to see the woman, as she was under water, but from the bubbles he guessed the position, and at once cast his line. The hook caught hold of her dress, and the angler pulled the drowning woman to the bank side. Artificial respiration was applied, and after being attended to at the hospital she fully recovered." Fishers of men are not in it with this sportsman.

Of course, one of the many causes of just complaint is to be found in the persistent land-grabbing which has gone on for generations. We shall therefore always be glad to give publicity to cases of "stealing the common from the goose." We are informed that there is a large common at a place called Hodge Hill; that someone fenced this in several years ago, whereupon the working men of Saltley and Birmingham tore the fences down; and that now Lord Newport, the lord of the manor, claims the exclusive right of grazing there. He has actually let this alleged right and, unless it is resisted, the public will have to pay his lordship heavily when the expansion of Birmingham requires the erection of streets and cottages on this common. There are few open spaces in East Birmingham, and anyone who interferes with them infringes the rights of the poor. What does Mr. Chamberlain say to this?

We always feel particularly sorry for blind people, for they must be shut out from a terribly large share of the pleasures of life, and we entirely agree with Mr. Knipe, a gentleman who writes to us from Bristol to point how very little is done for their relief. It appears that there are at present 40,000 blind persons in this country, that 5,000 of them are in the workhouses, 5,000 in receipt of parish relief, and 7,000 begging their bread in the streets or starving at home. Considering that no less than £2,000,000 have been bequeathed for their relief, it is certainly disgraceful that so little should have been done on their behalf. Most of this money was left without any restrictions even as to good behaviour or blameless reputation. Yet the trustees of the various charities for the blind have imposed so many restrictions that it is very difficult for the poor blind to obtain any of the money which was intended for them. All blind persons applying for relief are obliged to answer such questions as the following: Are you subject to fits? Have you ever been in receipt of parish relief? Have you ever pushed a barrow in the streets for your living? There are 157 institutions for the blind, but they pay an average wage of only 10s. for a week's work of between fifty and sixty hours. We must call the attention of Parliament to this disgraceful state of things.

It will probably be a source of satisfaction to Colonel Ley, of Aldershot, to know that he is not the only man in the world who is without affection for cats. There is a Michael Trowey, of Liverpool, for instance. Trowey was eating some spare ribs in the kitchen of a lodging-house. The cat, as cats will in such cases, tried to make friends with him. Trowey's response was to rise from his chair and dance on it. "Afterwards," said a witness at the police court, "he picked up the animal and kicked it three feet up in the air." A few minutes later it was a corpse, "with its inside fairly kicked out," the manager of the lodging-house said. Unlike Colonel Ley, Trowey did not get off without punishment. The magistrates mulcted him in the sum of 40s. and costs, or a month in default. If Trowey is doing the month, we are glad of it; if he was able to pay the fine, it is a matter for regret that the magistrates should have given him the option. Ruffians of the Trowey type are an offence to humanity. Only officers in His Majesty's Army should enjoy such privileges.

Our cynical contributor, Mr. Crow, writes us: "A great deal of fuss has been made over the fact that Britishers don't win Marathon races. But no one ever denied that foreigners can run." What a vinegary pen the man has, to be sure!

Why did Inspector Drew retire from the police force? We still await an answer.

Next week we shall have more to say about the way in which the "Jam" deals with his English debts.

WORRIED LOOKS.—II.

Mr. Birrell and the "Host."

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

Our Weekly Ballot Scheme for 50 Helpers at One Guinea Each.

For full particulars of the meaning of the number on page i. of our cover, see page iii. of cover.

OUR GREAT CHRISTMAS-BOX SCHEME.

For full particulars of this scheme, see page iii. of cover.

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

For announcing that "a distinguished young lady wishes to sell her auburn-brown tail for 10s. 6d.,"
AN ADVERTISER IN THE *LADY*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

*For describing an accident to a man and stating that "*UNFORTUNATELY *he was not hurt,"*
THE *SHEFFIELD EVENING MAIL*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that a lady was to open a sale of work and that a Portsmouth woman, "charged with a similar offence, was similarly dealt with,"
THE HAMPSHIRE POST
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For anhouncing "a fortnightly football match every week,"
MR. COPLAND, OF AYR,
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "darkness was then approaching, so that he was MISSED WITHOUT HIS ABSENCE BEING NOTICED,"
THE *MANCHESTER DAILY DISPATCH*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising sausage-machines under the heading of "Pianofortes for sale,"
AN ADVERTISER IN THE *LIVERPOOL ECHO*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For remarking that "it is a most pleasing thing to know that, in spite of our many efforts to improve the every-day surroundings of our people and the upward tendency recently shown by our trade returns, our criminals are increasing in number,"
THE *WICKLOW NEWS LETTER & ARKLOW REPORTER*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For alluding to Mr. Ivan Levinstein as "a BRITISH *chemical manufacturer,"*
SIR JOSEPH LAWRENCE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For describing a deceased gentleman as "now living" at an address in Hampstead,
THE NOTTING HILL INDICATOR
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "he fired full in the FACE *of a big-bearded man. . . . The man went down with a bullet in his* HEART,"
THE WRITER OF A SERIAL IN *CHUMS*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising "the upper part of a house, containing three rooms, a cellar, kitchen, backyard, and three acres of land planted with mushrooms, in Chase-me-Charley Street,"
AN ADVERTISER IN THE *WISBEACH ADVERTISER*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "the low birth-rate is eloquent testimony to the excellent management of the borough of Lewisham,"
THE LEE JOURNAL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that Lord Rosslyn was married in a REGISTRY OFFICE, *and that "the floor of* THE CHURCH *was covered with rice,"*
THE STAR
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For remarking that "there were a lot of absent members there that day,"
MR. BATCHELOR, OF WEST ASHFORD, KENT,
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

*For giving Harrogate in a list of "*SEASIDE *holiday resorts,"*
THE DAILY CHRONICLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

IS HECTOR MACD NALD ALIVE?

By B. B.

As a commercial traveller, I journey all over Scotland, and towards the close of a dreary day not long since I arrived at K——, on the East Coast.

My host at the "George" had a roaring fire and a warm welcome for the few commercials who, with me, climbed wearily off the North bound train.

A hearty meal, and the famous comfort of the place, soon brought back our good spirits and we drew all the most comfortable chairs around that cheery blaze.

The usual stories and arguments were becoming exhausted, and I, for one, was feeling tired and not sorry to see our host coming in to say "Good-night."

One of the fellows stopped him with a question, and I just caught the reply, "Yes, sir, Hector Macdonald used to live hereabouts, and we miss him sorely."

Mention of the famous General's name awaked in us a gen ral interest, remembering as we all did the tragic manner of his death.

When, therefore, someone mentioned this fact we were surprised to hear his startling denial.

"Dead, sir? He's not dead, but as much alive as any of us at this minute."

Instantly we were all attention, and, only too glad to find a sympathetic audience, our host told his story.

"You must know," the proprietor of the "George" commenced, "that although an Englishman, I have lived here many years, and take the greatest interest in all that goes on in these parts.

"Well, at the time of the South African war we were all filled with love and pride for those Generals who led our Scotch lads on to battle. Chief amongst them all to us was Sir Hector Macdonald. His dogged perseverance, pluck, and lion-like courage appealed to the Scotch blood as nothing else can.

"Well, you all know how Sir Hector came out of the war and was appointed to the command of the troops in Ceylon, if I rightly remember.

"Then came the foul slander that shocked all Britain and angered his friends.

"You will remember how he journeyed to London for advice from his chiefs, and that on his way back to Ceylon to face the inquiry, he stayed in Paris and was found shot in an hotel.

"Now, gentlemen," continued our host, as he shifted his position for the comfort of an armchair, "I happened to be in Paris at the time, and you can take my word that the first news we received there of his suicide came from London by wire. Nothing was known of the affair in Paris till some day or so after the event. That the news should be thus delayed and come from London, I considered strange at the time, and subsequent events have proved my belief to have been well founded.

"Well, the matter had passed out of my thoughts till one day a year ago a traveller arrived here.

"I noticed that his numerous trunks were covered with Con.inental labels of various hotels.

"I came down and sat with him.

"We got talking on many subjects, and I was considerably surprised at his asking me if we in K—— had any idea that Macdonald was alive and well.

"I then told him of my suspicions in Paris, and he, in turn, gave me his own startling experience.

"It appears that this gentleman had been for some years in China on business, and that whilst in Pekin had attended a great review of the Emperor's troops.

"They were drawn up on four sides of a great square, whilst in the centre was a small group of officers with their staff.

"He was glancing at them when one, turning, faced his way, and he knew him at once, despite his curious uniform and trappings; those rugged features and broad shoulders were those of Sir Hector Macdonald.

"As they had been acquainted with each other in Scotland, my guest stepped across the parade ground towards Sir Hector. The men recognised each other, and, turning swiftly, the Chinese General motioned to two soldiers, and these rapidly advanced, and, seizing our friend, hustled him from the ground."

Our host paused. "That's the story, gentlemen, and for my part I believe it, for I was told in Paris that Sir Hector was smuggled out to China and received a high appointment in the Emperor's Army."

We had sat spellbound, till I broke the silence.

"What of the man who was found shot in Paris?"

"Oh," replied our host, "I was told on the best authority that he was a nameless bankrupt from the gaming tables of Monte Carlo, without friends.

"His suicide was, with the help of the authorities on both sides of the Channel, made the means of a great deception, and the scandal dropped.

"Was Sir Hector guilty?" he repeated in answer to a question. "No, of course not; but," added our host significantly, "there are some charges that even the bravest man cannot face. Good-night, gentlemen."

HOW TO PROTECT THE BABY.

THE LATEST SANITARY REGULATIONS.

You mustn't kiss the baby or you'll poison it with germs,
For they lurk where every tiny dimple dips;
Yes, in every hole and corner, and—your auntie—you must warn her—
There are microbes by the million on her lips.

You mustn't pat the baby, you must tell your uncle Sam
That we can't allow the microbes near the cot;
He must boil his hands in soda, and an aromatic odour
Must exhale from every finger tip he's got.

You mustn't touch the baby with your whiskers or your hair,
For the microbes drop like pollen from a flower;
If you really would protect her—get a hot air disinfector
And keep your head inside it for an hour.

You mustn't talk to baby, for the microbe bogies swarm
In all the little syllables that float;
So, before you talk and frolic, get a gallon of carbolic
And pour it strong and scalding down your throat.

You mustn't sing to baby, nor whistle it a tune,
Unless you heed the scientific rule—
To fix a mask securely and to breathe your music purely
Through a pad of patent Sal Alembroth wool.

You mustn't use a handkerchief to wipe the baby's nose,
Or a hundred million microbes will diffuse;
For bactericidal laws say that antiseptic gauze
Is the only proper article to use.

You mustn't feed the baby till you've pasteurised the milk;
And the cow must be of a very special breed;
And a qualified inspector must daily disinfect her
In accordance with the last official creed.

You mustn't wash the baby till the water's been distilled—
Mixed with Condy of the proper strength and weight;
And before the sponge goes in it, you must dip it for a minute
In solution of corrosive sublimate.

You mustn't dress the baby till its linen has been boiled
In the strongest steriliser that is known;
The brush must then be heated and the comb be always treated
With a baking in an oven of its own.

You mustn't put the baby in its tiny cot to sleep
Till with gauze you've covered every inch of skin;
For the flies, without your knowing, are always microbe-sowing,
And at every little crevice they'll creep in.

You mustn't leave the baby for the fraction of an hour,
Till it's covered with a patent glazed wig-wum;
It's the only certain shield if hermetically sealed,
Where the "gobelins" can never, never come.

W. R. H.

THE ABODE OF (FREE) LOVE.

HAS THE "MESSIAH" BOLTED?

Smyth-Pigott has been frightened badly by our exposure of his licentious and swindling methods. He has come to the conclusion that it would be wise, for the present at least, to withdraw from the "Abode," until happily the storm be overpast. But let it not be imagined that the cunning rascal is going into exile to eat the bread and drink the water of affliction. Far from it; it would be too unpleasant, and he hates anything in this shape. At Oppslo, a suburb of Christiania, the capital of Norway, Pigott has a flourishing branch Agapemone, whence he recruits his English harem with Norwegian beauties. It is there he has gone, and snugly and quietly he is waiting until the ferment of public opinion shall have died down, when he may safely return. In the meantime, Douglas Hamilton, *alias* "John the Baptist," has been gazetted as Commander-in-Chief, and is doing his best to represent the "Messiah" in all things.

But Pigott was ever a cautious man. He has an uneasy feeling that the complete exposure of JOHN BULL may lead to unpleasant results. The very thought of "investigation" and "inquiry" makes him turn cold, so he is preparing for emergencies by unloading some of his farm lands adjoining the Agapemone property at Spaxton, and converting them into cash. These lands are considerable; and it may interest intending purchasers to hear that one of the farms he proposes to sell contains the Agapemone burying-ground, where those of the faithful who depart this life are interred. Meantime, the following article from the pen of an experienced lawyer will be of interest:—

HOW THE LAW CAN DEAL WITH PIGOTT.

It may safely be said that very few Englishmen are not ashamed and sorry that an establishment like the "Agapemone" at Spaxton can be tolerated in their native country. Many will have wondered why the law has not interfered and broken it up; and since neither the Public Prosecutor nor his officials are likely to have undue feelings of tenderness towards Smyth-Pigott, the general conclusion will be that he has in some way contrived to keep within the law, although outraging the minds of all decent persons. But as those familiar with the official mind know, it by no means follows that the law is deficient because the Public Prosecutor fails to invoke it.

Smyth-Pigott's doings, however, are sufficiently public; and elsewhere the writer has shown that he might be prosecuted, with excellent chances of success, on at least three indictments. Briefly these are: (1) Blasphemy, by bringing the Scriptures into ridicule and contempt; (2) Under a section in the Vagrancy Act, through which Smyth-Pigott's humbler brethren in occult pretensions, such as spiritualists, are laid by the heels, and (3) under Section 3 (2) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1885 (unfortunately for technical reasons it seems almost impossible to deal with the "Agapemone" as a disorderly house, either under that Act or any other law).

It may be said at once that a prosecution for blasphemy would have to be an absolutely last resource. Only one has taken place within the last twenty years, and those within living memory have been for mere coarse and offensive abuse of the Scriptures, and not for Smyth-Pigott's offence—which, it may be remarked, is common enough among lunatics and weak-minded people, and is only harmful when deliberately committed by a man who can find dupes to believe him.

The best and most appropriate method of prosecution would undoubtedly have been the last of the three named, but for one reason. In effect the section of the Criminal Law Amendment Act above mentioned ensures punishment for those who by false pretences or false representations procure any woman or girl of previous good character for immoral purposes. The chief reason against such a prosecution now is that it ought to have taken place three or four years ago. By established principles of law there is no time-limit for these prosecutions; but practically when all the facts have been known for years the delay tells against the prosecution, making it appear vindictive. Smyth-Pigott told the mother of the two illegitimate children that he was the Messiah and induced her to live with him on this account; and, since he had the effrontery to sign the register as their father, he himself has completed the evidence. Unfortunately, however, the offence so far as this particular young woman was concerned, took place at or before the time when the sect migrated from Clapton to Spaxton, and, if she is of age, her latter relations with the impostor are not within the criminal law. So that the authorities who hesitated to prosecute have lost their chance of doing so effectively in this case.

As there are many other young women in the Abode it may be that an indictment might be made in respect of another of them; but this does not at present appear very hopeful.

The last method of attack, by criminal proceedings (Smyth-Pigott is also vulnerable civilly, as indicated later on), would be by means of the Vagrancy Act. It may be well to consider this carefully. To the layman the conviction of a man living on ill-gotten wealth in a sumptuous house as a vagrant may appear somewhat absurd, but so long as it can be obtained few are likely to grumble at the method. Under Section 4 of the Act a man is to be deemed a "rogue and vagabond" and rendered liable to imprisonment if (among many other offences) he "pretends or professes to tell fortunes, or uses any subtle craft, means, or device, by palmistry or otherwise, to deceive and impose."

This at first sight does not appear to meet the case at all; but under the word "otherwise" judges have convicted both an astrologer and a spiritualist.

Two reasons may be suggested against a prosecution of Smyth-Pigott on these grounds, and perhaps have prevented it taking place. First, lawyers are fond of precedents, and the section has not hitherto been used against religious impostors; and, secondly, it is highly undesirable to try questions of religious truth in a Court of Justice.

It is submitted that these do not give the authorities concerned an adequate excuse for remaining passive. In the ordinary case it may be best to leave a religious impostor alone, rather than to let his dupes regard him as a martyr; but Smyth-Pigott is a public danger, both in himself and from the possibility of other licentious hypocrites taking courage from his impunity and imitating him elsewhere. Such men may not so easily find a wealthy "John the Baptist," but, unfortunately, they always seem able to attract a particular type of foolish young woman, and therein lies their chief power for mischief. It may be noted that the United States has purged itself of open polygamy, and, though it is said that some of the Mormons keep harems, the same has been reported of certain millionaires. And granted that the open and secret offence may morally be of equal gravity, there is a vast difference in a public sense between the two.

Smyth-Pigott should, therefore, in the absence of any recent evidence that would bring him under the Criminal Law Amendment Act, be prosecuted under this section of the Vagrancy Act. If the Public Prosecutor attempted this and failed on technical grounds, he would get far more praise for his effort than blame for his failure; but with a strong judge on the Bench the attempt ought not to fail. In the case of the spiritualist Baron Cleasby said: "We are dealing with an impostor exercising a power by a pretended intercourse with the invisible world, a peculiar power belonging to himself." Pigott pretends to dominion over the invisible world, if he pretends anything, and thus his case is more than covered.

A conviction under the Vagrancy Act would render Smyth-Pigott liable to three months' imprisonment as a "rogue and a vagabond." Some may think this would be too light a punishment; however, it would probably help to break up the "Abode," and if there was a repetition of the same conduct, a second conviction would entail a maximum penalty of a year's hard labour and a whipping as an "incorrigible rogue." Thus the power to punish would be quite adequate.

A word may finally be added as to other possible proceedings against Smyth-Pigott. As an ordained clergyman he is theoretically subject to Ecclesiastical law; practically, however, there is no method of either forcing him to appear before an Ecclesiastical Court, or of making him submit to its decrees. Some acknowledgment, however, seems to be due to the Bishop of Bath and Wells, who has done his best to deal with an impossible position.

As regards civil proceedings, the dupes or even their executors can at any time call Pigott to account for all money he has received; this, however, they do not seem likely to do at present. But if any death occurs in the "Abode," the next-of-kin should not lose sight of their right of setting any will aside made under undue influence.

A TEMPERANCE REFORMER'S CATECHISM.

By Radcliffe Martin.

What is the Drink Traffic?
A hideous system of national demoralisation from which the country derives a third of its revenue.

Is it Wrong to Derive Gain from Such a Traffic?
It is iniquitous in the individual, but virtuous in the State.

What is a Brewer?
A malignant plutocrat who manufactures intoxicating liquor with the sole object of creating vice and crime.

Are there any Exceptions to this Definition?
Yes, the exceptions have taken office in Liberal Ministries.

What is a Publican?
The wicked minion of the brewer, whose sole object in life is the encouragement of drunkenness.

Are there any Exceptions to this Definition?
In case of by-elections, a publican should be defined as "a poor slave who, for a scanty pittance, reluctantly fufills the behests of the bloated brewer."

What are Brewery Shareholders?
Wicked widows or opulent orphans who desire (1) to demoralise their fellow-creatures, and (2) to amass filthy lucre by so doing.

What is Beer?
Beer may be defined in two ways according to the use to be made of the definition, (*a*) a highly potent beverage brewed from malt and hops by Bung with the deliberate object of increasing thirst and drunkenness, or (*b*) a highly watered, washy beverage concocted from chemicals and forced on the public through the medium of tied houses.

Explain the Term Bung in your last Answer?
Bung is an appellation which saves temperance reformers much argument. The ordinary voter would not support any injustice to Mr. Smith, the brewer, but he may be persuaded into harrying the iniquitous Bung.

What is a Cocoa Manufacturer?
A man of high moral purpose who makes cocoa and supports Licensing Bills without the slightest idea of personal profit, but only thinking of the good of the State and the (Free) Churches; an opponent of slave labour.

What is Compensation?
Permission given by the legislature for publicans to compensate themselves for their own losses.

What is a Fourteen Years' Time-Limit?
A date after which the publicans will not be allowed to compensate themselves for their own losses.

What will Happen at the End of the Time-Limit?
The State will acquire control of the trade in alcohol.

Will the Trade in Alcohol then Cease?
It will cease if a year should come when the Chancellor of the Exchequer requires no money.

What is your Opinion Regarding Sunday Closing?
That public-houses must be closed in Monmouthshire and open in Herefordshire. That the hours should be shortened in the provinces and left alone in London.

Why Should the Hours Remain Unaltered in London?
First, because London has longer hours than the country already, and, second, because we must consider London's thirsty Radical voters.

What is Your Opinion of the Bona-fide Traveller?
That he should be made to travel six miles for his drink instead of three.

Will this Make for Temperance?
Yes; the drinker will not care to travel so far for his liquor, and so, as in Scotland, will carouse in his own home.

What is your Opinion of the Bishops?
That they are a set of coveteous, arrogant Romanisers dragooning Nonconformist children; or, in the alternative, a noble array of high-minded ecclesiastics, whose courageous conduct in supporting the Licensing Bill demands the admiration of all.

Should the Licensing Bill be Applied to Ireland?
Not whilst there are eighty Nationalist members.

Or to Scotland?
No; there must be some safe seats kept for members of the Government somewhere.

Where is Peckham?
Peckham is a slum-suburb of London famous for its Bacchanalian orgies and its staggering majority.

What Proof Have You that the Majority of People at Peckham are Inebriated?
At a recent by-election, when a quarter of a million people were present at the declaration of the poll, two were discovered to be overcome by the bribes of Bung.

Name Other Districts Famous for Bestial Drunkenness?
Mid-Devon, South Hereford, Worcester, North-West Manchester, Haggerston and Newcastle.

Is there any Place in England where the Sober Voters Outnumber the Drunkards?
There are eight more sober men than drunkards in Wolverhampton.

DOT FELLER GRAYSON.

By Isaac Isaacstein.

"Ikey, tear," says Repecca, "vot's dot feller Grayson been doin'?"

"My tear," I says, "he ain't done noddings—he's been talkin' too much, dot's all. You see, it's like dis. Grayson says dot beobles is starvin', und he demands dot all dot talk about Licensin' Bills should be stopped till der hungry is fed. Vell, now, der Government says dot der question of feedin' dose hungry beobles shall receive its most earnest gonsideration in due course. Fancy dot! Und Grayson, bein' vone of dose Socialist rascals ain't satisfied."

"Vell," says der leedle voman, "but if you vos to come home hungry und I vos to tell you dot der question of feedin' you vould receive my most earnest gonsideration in due course—und dot meanwhile I vos studyin' der question of removin' der temptations to drink of Schwartz or Finckelheimer, down der road dere, vot vould you do?"

"My tear," I says, "Dot's anodder matter altogedder. I——"

"Vot vould you do?"

"I—my tear, you can't gonsider questions of Bolitics in dot vay——"

"Vot vould you do?"

"I——"

"Vell?"

"Vell, of all der unreasonable vomans—My tear," I says. "Ubon my vort I sometimes vonder if you vomans ain't more practical dan us men after all. Vot vould I do? Vell, now I'll tell you vot I'd do. I'd be so foolish as der rest und go to look at der Vorkhouse, und dot vould mean sebaratin' me und you und der leedle vones, so I vouldn' go in dere. Und ve ain't der singin' und brayin' sort so ve vouldn' be vanted by none of der charitable societies."

"Vell?"

"Vell den, I subbose I vould steal, dot vould mean prison und sebaration for a leedle time, but den comes der reward. I ain't fairly put my foot oudside der prison gates ven half a hundert societies is fightin' for der chance of takin' us in hand. Dere's der Salvation Army brisoners aid beobles, der Church Army's ditto, der Indigent Aliens moral upliftin' und social Regeneradion Society, der Burglars' and Pickpockets' Reformation Associadion. All of dem strugglin' to get a holt of us und reform us, und send us to—to hard labour in Canada for der term of our naturals.

"Yes, dere's no doubt about it, Grayson is out of blace in Barliament—he ain't bolite enough, und pesides he ain't intellecdual neider, or he'd know better as to vant to feed der hungry mit goot tings, pefore der rich had given der matter deir most careful gonsideration in due course. It ain't resbegtable, it ain't Christian, und Church beobles like me und you dot pelongs to der Only Resbegtable Barty can't haf noddings to do mit it."

"Ikey, tear," says Repecca, "can't ve gif a leedle bit for dose hungry beobles?"

"My tear, didn' I say you vomans vos always too practical? You might send sometings, but for heaven's sake don' tell nobodies. I'm off down to der club to speak on der 'Menace of Socialism.'"

A HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY.

By ROBERT FREKE GOULD.

Barrister-at-law, Past Senior Grand Deacon of England.

This great work, of which a new edition is now appearing, is an exhaustive study of everything relating to Freemasonry, its antiquities, symbols, constitutions, customs, and history; it includes a full investigation of the authentic records of the fraternity all over the world.

It is therefore a treasury of information on a subject on which expert and reliable information has hitherto been almost inaccessible.

But "The History of Freemasonry," apart from its value as a reliable work treating of all Historical and practical information relating to the Craft, is a book of the most fascinating interest, and one which will be read again and again by every Mason who wishes to keep in touch with the glorious records of his Society, as well as by the large class of general readers, to whom out-of-the-way information on a subject that is confessedly invested with mystery always appeals.

Mr. Gould has received material assistance in his work from many zealous Masons. Amongst others:

Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, M.A., Past Grand Chaplain of England (Editor of the "Masonic Cyclopædia," "Freemasons' Secrets," "Archæological Masonic Library," etc.).

Mr. David Murray Lyon, Grand Secretary of Scotland (Historiographer of the "Mother Lodge Kilwinning," the "Lodge of Edinburgh," etc.).

Mr. William James Hughan, Past Grand Deacon of England.

Mr. W. H. Rylands, F.S.A., Secretary of the Society of Biblical Archæology.

The fine illustrations include 36 magnificently coloured plates, illustrating Masonic clothing and regalia, high-class etched frontispieces, and fine engravings of Masonic Marks, Medals, and Plates of Arms.

Its All-round Excellence.

Whether we consider this beautiful new edition of "The History of Freemasonry" from the point of view of its fulness of detail, the interesting and even fascinating nature of its treatment, its wealth of illustration, its excellence as to type, paper, and handsome binding, there is no doubt that the work is really worthy of a great and important body that has not hitherto received its fair share of consideration at the hands of the historian.

Two Opinions.

The Right Hon. Thomas F. Halsey (Deputy Grand Master):

"I must congratulate you on the way the work is got up, which I think most admirable. It will be a most valuable book of reference and study to all who take an interest in the Craft."

Sir Edward Letchworth:

"A decided improvement on previous editions, and I hope you will have a good sale for it."

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.....

THE LORD MAYOR OF MANCHESTER.

HOW ABOUT THAT KNIGHTHOOD?

(Communicated.)

The article regarding Birmingham. published on the 17th October, finds a parallel and equally discreditable state of affairs existing in Manchester.

The office of Lord Mayor during 1907 was filled by a gentleman who devoted a great deal of time and conscientious effort to maintaining the dignity of the Chief Magistracy. As the end of his term of office approached the wire-pullers saw that in the succeeding year (1908) the new Royal Infirmary would be ready for an official opening and that a Royal visit was not improbable.

It is usually courteous to invite the Lord Mayor to accept a second term of office, but at the period under review this course was rather risky, as the gentleman might have accepted, and thus the knight-elect (of the wire-pullers) has been disappointed of a knighthood.

"Where there's a will there's a way," however, and a resolution duly appeared on the Agenda to the effect that a Lord Mayor should only serve one term of office—unless there were special circumstances which made a second year desirable.

An attempt to suspend the operation of this resolution for twelve months was defeated, and the Council, at the instigation of the party managers, gravely decided, in effect, that a visit of the King was not sufficiently "special" to justify a second term of office. Thus was one Lord Mayor dismissed and another one appointed.

After the customary negotiations His Majesty found that he was unable to visit the city, and disappointment ran high—with the saving thought that the visit might be accomplished in 1909, which thought is still entertained.

The wire-pullers a few weeks ago suggested that the Lord Mayor should be invited for a second term of office, and the usual unofficial meeting was called. At this meeting it was asked, in view of the resolution of twelve months earlier, what circumstances prompted the suggestion, and the reply was given in whispers: "The King might come!"

One councillor, Mr. Ross Clyne, thereupon pointed out that the "special circumstances" of 1908 were deemed "not special" in 1907, and that if this were a sufficient reason for a second term of office this year the same reason ought to have been good enough a year ago; and, further, that the gentleman to invite to the office—on the suspension of the resolution—was the one who had been jockeyed out by the operation of the resolution.

This view was freely commended in the meeting, and was only lost by four votes, the official figures being—

For the requisition to the Lord Mayor ..	41
Against	37

For sundry statements (among which may possibly be included the one referred to above) the councillor had the pleasure at a later meeting of being called a "cur" by the Lord Mayor, whilst the latter gentleman was maintaining the dignity of his office.

The requisition eventually presented to the Lord Mayor asking him to accept office a second year was signed by 94 members of the Council (out of about 124). This fact—in view of the vote of the meeting—speaks volumes for the industry of the party leaders in imploring, bartering or threatening for signatures; they even approached—though unsuccessfully—Mr. Ross Clyne.

The independent press is the only medium through which this sort of thing may be ventilated, and by which His Majesty may possibly learn of the jobbery which is constantly afoot in the seeking of honours.

Thus are the marks of His Majesty's Royal favour, which every true British subject would most jealously conserve, degraded to the level of articles of barter for the party politicians.

Having spent all I had (£5,200) in securing and proving a Gold and Silver Mine in Nevada, I am stopped for Working Capital. Not wishing to give bulk of my profits to Company Promoters, I propose floating Syndicate £6,000 taking £3,600 shares full purchase price, leaving £2,400 (sufficient Working Capital to prove and possess perhaps the most valuable mine in Nevada) under ABSOLUTE CONTROL OF SUBSCRIBERS. Intending investors communicate immediate with Nevada, care Messrs. Deacon's, Leadenhall Street, E.C.—[Advt.]

THE POLITE LETTER WRITER.

WE GET IT OUT FROM A GERMAN READER.

All editors, we presume, receive a certain amount of correspondence from their readers. But, as our Letter Bag pages testify, we are specially favoured in this respect. And, on the whole, we derive great pleasure from this source. That is due, perhaps, to the fact that the overwhelming majority of the letters are couched in kindly and flattering tones. Now and then, however, some reader, perhaps more shrewd than the rest, draws aside the veil and reveals to us our depraved and stupid character. Of such is the following example:—

> Mr, John Bull,—What a silly stupied Ass you make yourself in your paper to publish such rubbish as German Spy Club in London, it is the likes of you who publish such abominable rubbish in your papers which couses ill feeling and heatred of one Nation to another,
>
> Now! You perhaps know not that German Clubs have been in existance in London years before you ever been known or thought of, so have also been German Benevolant Societys, do you know that? do you know that German Princes have been on the Throne of England more then thousand years ago who is the present King of England? nothing else but a German, born by a German Woman who had a German as Husband also four of their daughters had Germans, not Englishman as Husbands.
>
> Now listen—who invented and introduced the first Breech loading Rifle into the British Army? not an Englishman none other but a German, Schneider, who invented the Martini Henry Rifle? no Englishman (for they are too stupied) but a German from who has the pressent Rifle been coppied? from the Germans, I can take you to a Rifle Factory in London where the chief leading Man are not Englishman but—Germans—Now listen go to the Woolwich Arsenel there you find the inventors of explosives are Germans not Englishman, and who are they? Colonal Von Donop and his Brother the Chief and Principal Man of abilety in the Arsenel are Germans, but they must be Naturalised before they will take them in. Colonal Von Donop gets £2,000 per An to walk about the Woolwich Arsenel who has been your late Chief Comander? a German where do the British Army and Navy get their instructions from? Germans who are the Great and leading Financiers and business Man in the City? Germans so now shut up about your rubbish and nonesence about Germans, or you will get your eyes in a sling Germans are better Man then you ever will be, you may have had your education and Civelezation from Germans—*Prosat*—
>
> Mr. Editor, however did you come to find out this German Spy Club in London? who put you into the secrat? who told you about this Deutsch Offizen Club I would like to know—but I believe that you are right down a liar you have proofed yourself a liar about Restals trips to Bornemouth which have been in existance for years up to 2 years ago 3 years ago.
>
> I am a German by birth and proud of it more so then if I where an Ass of Englishman like you I have been over 40 years in this Country been 18 years old when I came here. I have been married 35 years in April last to an English Girl, Woman now Mother and Grandmother, she has been the couse of me stying in this once prosperious, now the most rotten Country in the World why? becouse *Love knows no Nationaleity*. I have been employer of labour a Manufacturer for 36 years come next November and had all kinds of Man working for me, I know no better and steadier work man then Germans allthough I have not had any at work for years, I have come in contact in my business walks with all classes of People in England Scotland and Irland, but I have never heard of any German spying upon his employer or a system of espionage as you want to make out.
>
> Have you read the Revelation of St. John? Chapt. 13 to 18th—I hope that I have settled you and your stuppied nonesence of cousing heatred—now shut up and let as hear no more of it—before you expose yourself too much of an Ass—Donkey I ought to say.

"CANADIAN EMIGRANTS, BEWARE!"

THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY-GENERAL SENDS US THE DEPOSITIONS.

In our last issue we referred to this matter and to the strange conduct—insolent as strange—of Mr. J. Obed Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Emigration here. We have now to acknowledge a very courteous communication from the Deputy Attorney-General of Alberta, covering a copy of the correspondence we were shown, but not allowed to take a note of, at Charing Cross.

The papers sent for our consideration are the statements of the witnesses examined at the magisterial enquiry into the alleged insanity of Mr. Ormonde, and, as we said last week, Ormonde's own evidence shows that at the time of the enquiry he was suffering from hallucinations. We will now quote what Mr. Smith would not allow our representative to copy. The following is a part of Ormonde's statement:—

> I saw the other day a figure with great red eyes; it spoke to me and laughed. I had a revolver and shot at it, and it laughed again at me. It was the shape of a man, tall—a funny shape. It said something to me most disagreeable. I fired at it twice on the crest of the hill, then saw it on the lake, and it jeered at me, and I fired again.

Now it is obvious that if this is the statement made by Ormonde to the magistrate he was at the time suffering from hallucinations, but then he does not deny it. What he says is that it was a passing illness from which he had completely recovered when he was deported. The examination took place, we may say, on November 27th, 1907, at Parkdale, Edmonton.

In addition to Ormonde's own statement, there is that of other witnesses, among them Dr. John Parker, who deposed that he was called in to see Ormonde, and that

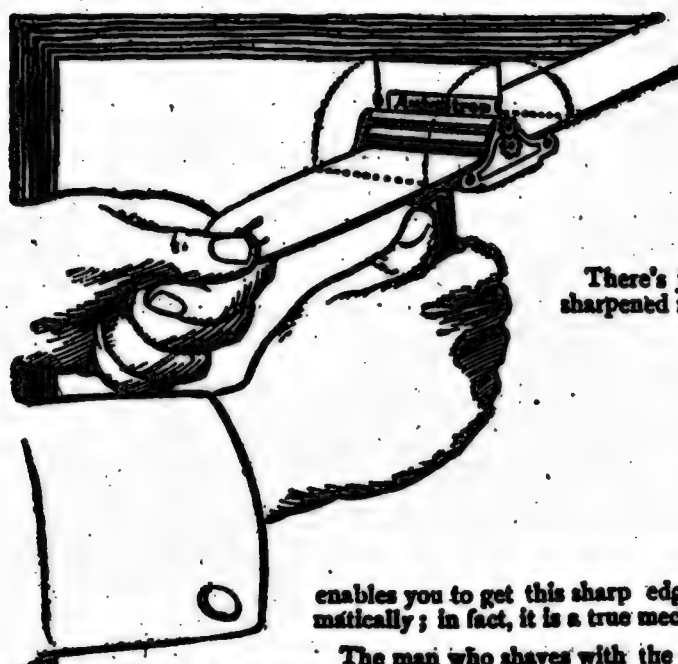
> The patient seemed agitated and nervous. He explained to him that on coming from the mine he heard sounds of footsteps behind him, and that when he got to the lake he saw a very large monster with very large red eyes and the monster spoke to him and laughed at him, and he fired at this monster, but without effect upon it.

And there was another witness, William Pickles, who says that Ormonde

> had a kind of fit and was very violent.

That is all the evidence sent to us by the Deputy Attorney-General. Unfortunately he does not refer to the certificate of Dr. Braithwaite, upon the strength of which Ormonde was released. Now we have seen a copy of Dr. Braithwaite's statement, and here we are faced with the difficulty that it is marked confidential, but we are sure Dr. Braithwaite, who is now in England, will not object to our saying that his certificate is opposed to the present contention of the Dominion Government that Ormonde was insane, or anything but perfectly sane, at the time of his deportation.

The Deputy Attorney-General says nothing about the second point that at the time of his deportation Ormonde was earning a substantial salary, supplemented by his wife's profits from a boarding-house. How, under these circumstances, it can be said that he and his family were without means of subsistence, and threatened to become a public charge, remains a mystery. Put at its highest, the evidence submitted to us by the Deputy Attorney-General to justify the deportation of Ormonde and his family only proves that he suffered from a severe nervous attack, including hallucinations. We have his employers' letter, which we published last week, to show that Ormonde must have recovered before his deportation, seeing that he was in the employment of the company at the time he was deported. We have, also, as we have said, seen Dr. Braithwaite's letter, which states that he had recovered. It seems to follow that in the opinion of the Government of the Dominion—or, at any rate, of the local Government, which appears to have been the effective authority in this case—it is sufficient for a man who emigrates to Canada, with a healthy wife and family, to be sent back to England at a moment's notice, just as some wastrel would be sent, if only he has suffered from a passing illness, and notwithstanding that he is in employment, and has a frugal wife and lusty children. With every sympathy for the Canadian Government in its desire to keep out wastrels and the physically unfit, this seems to us, from any point of view, a questionable policy.



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The man who shaves with the AutoStrop Safety Razor avoids all the troubles of the dull razor—the AutoStrop Safety Razor never irritates or roughens the skin, never pulls or injures the roots, even when shaving the toughest beard. If you have the "dull razor habit"—if you are using a safety razor which cannot be stropped, take pity on your face and buy an AutoStrop Safety Razor to-day.

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THE OPTIMISTS' CLUB.

FIRST MEETING AT DOWNING STREET.

The Premier enters laughing: "Cheer up, gentlemen, cheer up. What's the matter with the Government? Now altogether, please."

The Cabinet: "*It's* all right."

The Premier: "Are we down-hearted?"

The response of "No" is so tremendous that a Suffragist outside drops the stone she had intended for the windows.

The Premier (chuckling): "We're doing splendidly in the country. Only lost one by-election in a month."

Lord Morley: "There's only been one to lose."

The Premier: "My dear fellow, pray look at the bright side of things. Isn't it a bit of good fortune that there are no more by-elections at present?"

The Cabinet (fervently): "It is."

Mr. Lloyd George: "The forces of unrighteousness——"

Mr. Birrell (interrupting): "Please don't give us Dr. Clifford second-hand. The only fault I have to find with the unrighteous is that they seem to constitute a majority in the constituencies."

Sir Edward Grey: "I don't want to cast a gloom over this hilarious gathering, but don't you think it would be better if one member of the Cabinet controlled foreign affairs? Now I don't try to settle strikes, or propose fresh methods of taxation."

The Premier: "My dear Grey, there's a silver lining to that cloud. Think of the members of the Government who have *not* interfered with your department."

Mr. Gladstone: "I don't want to seem depressed, but I was rather given away over that Catholic procession. Some stupid people will say that I lost us the Catholic vote."

The Premier: "Don't put it that way, Gladstone; say that you've gained the Protestant vote."

Mr. McKenna: "I want to consult you about an important point. The Naval Lords tell me that in 1911——"

The Premier: "Dear me, we can't have this. You're going to meet trouble half-way."

Mr. McKenna: "We're all right now, and we shan't be in power in 1911. Doesn't that cheer you a little? But we've met to consider the legislative programme for this autumn session. First there's the Education Bill."

Mr. Runciman: "The Lords will throw that out."

The Premier: "Well, then, we're rid of the wretched business. Besides, it will give us a magnificent cry against the Lords."

Mr. Birrell: "Then there's your Licensing Bill. I think that will bring you another blessing in disguise."

The Premier: "Oh! I'm sure the Peers will throw that out."

Lord Morley: "Suppose they don't?"

The Premier: "Do take a cheerful view of things. They must. Then we've got another cry against the Peers. Besides, what a glorious opportunity it will give Lloyd George for his next Budget!"

Mr. Lloyd George: "I shall need something. Revenue's falling dreadfully."

The Premier: "A good thing! A very good thing! If we are raising less it is obvious that the people are paying less. We are lightening the public burdens."

Mr. Haldane: "That scarcely touches the point."

Mr. Burns: "If you'd been as big a success as——"

The Premier: "Hush—hush—we've all been successes. And there's a bright side to the unemployed question. *We've* not unemployed, and we shan't be whilst we can put off the General Election. Besides, I think we're getting more popular. Look at the crowds at Winston's wedding. And that Newcastle result—well, there's encouragement there. Our man ran second—he might have run third, gentlemen. I think that concludes the business. Now, once more, gentlemen—What's the matter with the Government?"

The Cabinet: "*It's* all right—till the General Election."

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Why do you ALWAYS smoke "LUCANA"
Doctors orders my Boy
Doctors orders?
Yes they are HARMLESS on account of their ABSOLUTE PURITY.

AMONG THE MUMMERS.

Dear Drinks and "Standing Room Only."

During the past few weeks I have received a number of letters from country cousins who more or less justly imagine that they have been treated badly by London entertainment caterers. Some of these readers complain (not without reason, I think) of the badness and dearness of the drinks sold at certain theatre and music hall bars. "The front of the house men," says one of the complainants, "must have to mop up a lot of this expensive poison in the ordinary way of business and affability in the course of a year. No wonder, if they drink stuff like the public gets and pay prices such as the public is charged, that half of them die early, and the others go to the workhouse when they grow old."

Cause and Effect.

The bad complexions, worse tempers and premature baldness of the dramatic critics, not to mention their chronic impecuniosity, are, I believe, traceable directly to the fiery and costly liquids consumed by them in their unequal struggle with the British drama and the British comedian. At most of the halls I am pleased to note—and at one or two of the theatres—an improvement has taken place of late in the quality of the moisture purveyed; but the prices are still ruinous in all cases. At some of the theatres, I am told, the present managers have no power to deal with this grievance; they are only sub-lessees, and the right to sell programmes and imitation whisky and tepid beer and coffee made of distilled horse beans and wood ash is held by other persons. Of course, some of my readers are vexed about the ladies' hats. Others again complain that they did not get into theatres after waiting *en queue* for a long while, or failed to obtain seats in music halls for which they had paid.

The Scotsman and the Manager.

One of these last writes as follows:—

> Four of us went to the So-and-So music hall—second performance. We paid our 1s. each for the circle. We asked if there were seats, and were told that if not we could transfer to the stalls where there was room. We went in; and there were no seats in circle. Seats were *guaranteed* in stalls by a man in uniform, and another in evening dress who took our money when we transferred—which we did immediately. Arriving down below we discovered there were no seats vacant in stalls; and we were *sent upstairs again*. We went; and being now rather sick of it demanded to see the manager. He appeared. We asked an explanation. His only reply was "Sorry—can't help it," and an offer of tickets for another night. Rather ironical this, seeing I was leaving London next day! But the most astounding part of the whole thing was that the manager, while being besieged (by this time) by a crowd demanding some satisfaction, calmly stood looking on while a stream of people were coming in and paying for seats in the very parts of the house which were already filled up.

I saw the manager of the house referred to about our Scots friend. In the main he did not deny the truth of the above story, although his recollection of it differed slightly in points from that of its writer. If anyone "guaranteed" a seat in any part of his house, said the manager, that would be outside anyone's duty; and with 19 turns on a bill and 1s. circles it was obvious that many persons must stand if dividends were to be earned.

Forewarned?

So soon as possible after all seats were filled this fact was signalised to intending patrons; and the only thing he ever guaranteed was his show and standing room; the seats went on the first come first served. If a courteous request for money back were made by anyone, said the manager, on the ground that he was unable to stand, it would be favourably considered. It was not so made, I gather, in this instance; but tickets were offered for the next night—a compromise which in the circumstances our Scots friend could not accept. So much for this specific case; now for the general position. This year has been a very difficult one for the managers of some London halls and theatres—especially some halls. Night after night their houses have been packed to the danger point. In such conditions a few complaints were inevitable, although like other tradesmen managers generally do their best for their customers, so as to add to the value of their goodwill. The manager referred to in our correspondent's letter is singularly genial and wideawake; yet here even and more particularly in the case of certain other houses legitimate complaint is possible, and the "'standing room only" legend might perhaps be displayed more promptly and prominently.

A Suggested Remedy.

After one has tramped about the town all day sight-seeing a comfortable seat in the evening at a variety show is tempting; two or three hours standing in an atmosphere of stout lady and mixed drinks is far less pleasant. I do not see why some sort of signal should not be compulsory *outside* all halls and theatres, by means of which waiters in the *queue* or persons about to pay their money would be warned that they must stand up if they go in. As the *queue* is marshalled always in the same line, an indicator fixed on the wall at a point marking the limit of gallery or pit accommodation ought not to be impossible; and an illuminated sign, worked electrically from the circles and stalls, etc., and connecting with the box office and showing over the outer entrance should not be beyond the wit of man, and might save some friction. A dissatisfied customer is always a bad advertisement; and good advertisement is the breath of the life of the theatre and the music hall. P.

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2 Bottles 7/6—3 Bottles 11/-

6 Bottles 21/6 12 Bottles 42/- Carriage Paid to nearest Railway Station.

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is so pure, so mellow, and has such an exquisite flavour that we are able to say to you: "Try it in your own home. If it is not the best Scotch Whisky you ever tasted, return what you have left to us, at our expense, and we will refund your money in full." Can you conceive a fairer offer?

Fill in this Special Offer Order Form below and post with your remittance to us to-day.

N.B.—We forward 2 or 3 bottles of our whisky by post (larger quantities by rail, carriage paid to nearest station) to purchasers in England, Ireland, and Wales. Continental and Colonial purchasers may obtain terms on application.

JOHN SOMERVILLE & Co., Ltd., Distillers, Craigmillar, Edinburgh. Established 1829

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J.B. 31/10/08.

Name.....

Full Address.....

THE LICENSING BILL, 1908.

We have received the following STATEMENT prepared by THE CENTRAL BOARD of the Licensed Victuallers' Central Protection Society of London, Limited, and which contains instances of the hardships which would be entailed upon Owners and Private Mortgagees of Licensed Properties if the Bill became Law.

In the public discussions of this Bill, there appears to have been an underlying assumption that all licensed houses belong to brewers, either as actual owners or as mortgagees, and that they are the persons who would be financially injured by the Bill if it became law. It is then said that the brewers have committed sundry financial errors and that they are not proper objects of sympathy, and that no losses to which the Bill may expose them deserve consideration at the hands of Parliament.

Without in the least endorsing these conclusions, but, on the contrary, believing them to be wholly unjust, the Board feel it to be their duty to their constituents (the retail traders within the Metropolitan Police District) to make it clear that there is a large number of retail traders, and of private persons entirely independent of the brewery trade, who would be severe sufferers by the provisions of the Bill, and they accordingly append details of a few instances of the kind.

1. Licensed Victuallers holding unexpired leases with substantial periods yet to run, who purchased their leases at their then market value, and who have paid off all their loans and have no other capital in the house than their own, and are completely free to buy where they like.

INSTANCES—

	£
(a) Lease purchased in 1889 in open market—	
Term then 50 years.	
Still unexpired 30 years.	
All loans paid off.	
Owner's capital invested in house	7,500
Amount of the compensation which would be payable under the provisions of the Bill if the licence were taken away in the first year of the reduction period, as estimated by Expert Valuers	900
(b) 42 years of lease unexpired—	
All loans paid off.	
Owner's capital invested in house	16,000
Compensation as estimated by Expert Valuers	1,400
(c) 30 years of lease unexpired—	
All loans paid off.	
Owner's capital invested	12,000
Compensation as estimated by Expert Valuers	1,600
(d) 47 years of lease unexpired—	
All loans paid off.	
Owner's capital invested	5,000
Compensation as estimated by Expert Valuers	1,800

2. Licensed Victuallers holding unexpired leases with long periods yet to run, having large sums of their own money invested in the house, but having also by way of mortgage of the lease a considerable private loan. If, under the pressure of the Act, this loan is called in (as must certainly happen), the borrower will be unable to replace it, and the house must be sold for what it will fetch, and the Licensed Victualler's own capital will be entirely lost.

INSTANCES—

	£
(a) Unexpired term of lease—32 years—	
Licensed Victualler's own money invested	16,000
Private loan	6,500
In this case the private loan was from a bank, who called the money in upon the second reading of the Bill, and it was provided by an old friend of the family, not as a matter of business, but from motives of kindness.	
Compensation as estimated by Expert Valuers	5,800
(b) Unexpired term of lease—28 years—	
Licensed Victualler's own money invested	11,000
Private loan	21,750
Compensation as estimated by Expert Valuers	9,000
(c) Unexpired term of lease—39 years—	
Licensed Victualler's own money invested	12,000
Private loan	16,000
Compensation as estimated by Expert Valuers	7,700
(d) Unexpired term of lease—41 years—	
Licensed Victualler's own money invested	9,000
Private loan	14,000
Compensation as estimated by Expert Valuers	3,500
(e) Unexpired term of lease—70 years—	
Licensed Victualler's own money invested	20,000
Private loan	20,000
Compensation as estimated by Expert Valuers	5,000
(f) Unexpired term of lease—59 years—	
Licensed Victualler's own money invested	15,000
Private loan	13,000
Compensation as estimated by Expert Valuers	2,000
(g) Unexpired term of lease—51 years—	
Licensed Victualler's own money invested	15,000
Private loan	7,750
Compensation as estimated by Expert Valuers	4,350
(h) Unexpired term of lease—52 years—	
Licensed Victualler's own money invested	6,500
Private loan	2,500
Compensation as estimated by Expert Valuers	1,320
(i) Unexpired term of lease—82 years—	
Licensed Victualler's own money invested	6,000
Private loan	25,000
Compensation as estimated by Expert Valuers	4,650
(j) Unexpired term of lease—28 years—	
Licensed Victualler's own money invested	1,550
Private loan	20,000
Compensation as estimated by Expert Valuers	7,800
(k) Unexpired term of lease—37 years—	
Licensed Victualler's own money invested	2,500
Private loan	25,000
Compensation as estimated by Expert Valuers	5,500
(l) Unexpired term of lease—48 years—	
Licensed Victualler's own money invested	500
Private loan	8,000
Compensation as estimated by Expert Valuers	4,700
(m) Unexpired term of lease—65 years—	
Licensed Victualler's own money invested	1,250
Private loan	8,000
Compensation as estimated by Expert Valuers	4,800

3. There are also similar cases in which members of the Trade have invested their money in the purchase of freehold properties, with the assistance of a private loan.

INSTANCES—

	£
(a) Freehold—	
Licensed Victualler's own money invested	4,000
Private loan	3,750
Compensation as estimated by Expert Valuers	600
(b) Freehold—	
Licensed Victualler's own money invested	5,000
Private loan	5,000
Compensation as estimated by Expert Valuers	1,800
(c) Freehold—	
Licensed Victualler's own money invested	6,500
Private loan	16,500
Compensation as estimated by Expert Valuers	2,400
(d) Freehold—	
Licensed Victualler's own money invested	8,000
Private loan	5,000
Compensation as estimated by Expert Valuers	700
(e) Freehold—	
Licensed Victualler's own money invested	3,180
Private loan	20,000
Compensation as estimated by Expert Valuers	4,500

The foregoing instances have been taken from many others as examples of the financial disaster which must attend upon the passing of this Bill into law. The details have been obtained at first hand, and their accuracy may be relied upon. To show the effect which the Act would have, there is appended in each instance a statement furnished by Expert Valuers of the estimated amount of the compensation which would be payable under the provisions of the Bill upon the extinction of the licence in the first year of the reduction period. That is an amount which would be diminshed year by year as the reduction period grew shorter, until at the end of that period it would cease altogether, notwithstanding that the owners of the licences would have been paying to the Compensation Fund during the whole period.

Finally—the whole value of the licences would be forfeited to the State.

It is evident that under such circumstances the large sums of which details have been given and which have been invested by the several licensees must be totally lost and that all credit would be destroyed, and that the persons affected would be deprived of any means of averting ruin. The private lenders would also have to realise their securities at a ruinous loss to themselves.

It will be observed that in no single case would the estimated amount of compensation payable under the Bill be sufficient to provide for the private loan and the owner would remain liable to his mortgagee for the deficiency.

All these owners would, therefore, be thrown into a condition of insolvency without any fault or wrongdoing on their own part, and notwithstanding that they had acted as prudent and careful men in their business career.

These results would accrue from at least two causes, viz.:

1. The total confiscation of the licence at the end of the reduction period.

2. The inadequacy of the compensation to be paid during the reduction period.

The inadequacy of the compensation to be paid during the reduction period arises in this way:—

Under the Kennedy Judgment it was decided that the amount of compensation payable under the 1904 Act was to be

ascertained by the actual value to the owners of the licensed premises under the circumstances of each case and the deduction therefrom of the estimated value of the same premises unlicensed. In the case of owners who were brewers, the value of the premises to them as an outlet for the sale of their beers was declared to be an element to be taken into consideration.

Under the Bill of 1908, however, the basis of compensation is altogether changed, and is declared (Section 10) to be such sum as will purchase (with interest reckoned at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum) an immediate annuity for the unexpired years of the reduction period equal in amount to the annual value of the licence as ascertained under this Section with the addition of such sums (if any) as the Commissioners of Inland Revenue think just to add as compensation for the licence-holder's loss of business, etc." For the purposes of this Section, the annual value of the licence shall be taken to be the sum by which the actual annual value of the licensed premises, as adopted for the purpose of income-tax under Schedule "A" at the time when the renewal of the licence is refused, exceeds the amount which the Commissioners of Inland Revenue determine, for the purposes of this Section, would be the annual value of the premises for that purpose if the premises were not licensed, and the number of unexpired years shall be calculated as from the 5th day of April next after the date on which the renewal of the licence has been refused by the licensing justices.

The results of this change in the basis of the calculation of compensation are two-fold—namely:—

1. For compensation based upon the actual value of the premises, as licensed premises, to the owners, as under the Act of 1904 (as expounded by judicial authority) a hard and fast rule, based only upon annual value under Schedule "A," and having no relation to the actual value of the premises to the owners, is substituted. The relation which such value would bear to the actual value of the premises to the owners is necessarily uncertain and fluctuating, but that the results would work out at a merely fractional part of the values under the 1904 Act is demonstrated by the figures contained in the instances set forth in the earlier paragraphs of this statement, and to which instances the attention of the reader is specially invited.

The compensation payable under the Bill of 1908 would be merely in respect of the premises as distinguished from the value of the business carried on therein, which would have no recognition whatever. It seems incredible that so important a factor as goodwill should have been altogether omitted from the calculation of compensation.

To illustrate the injustice which this scale of compensation would work it will be sufficient to call attention to the case of licensed premises which by reason of their position would have a rental value for unlicensed purposes equal, or nearly equal, to that of the same premises in use as licensed premises. Prominent positions throughout London, and particularly premises in the main business streets of the City of London, would command as large a rent unlicensed as licensed, and a compensation based only on the difference between rental values licensed and unlicensed would amount to nothing. There may be a very large and valuable goodwill attached to the premises, as licensed, of the value of many thousands of pounds, but because the premises themselves would let for as much unlicensed as licensed no Compensation is to be paid.

This must surely have escaped the notice of the framers of the Bill.

Even assuming, for the purposes of the argument, that some of the licensed premises referred to in the foregoing statement would not at the present time realise in the open market the sums at which they stand in the books of the owner and of his private mortgagee, and that in the condition of suspense and doubt brought into action by the Bill, the present market values are not equal to the sums invested, it is obvious that the scheme of compensation set up by the Bill is erroneous and unfair, ignoring as it does the real and substantial value of the goodwill, for which, mainly, the premium has been paid.

It is true that leases of licensed premises are generally granted at a lower rent than the actual rental value of the premises as licensed premises, and that that fact is taken into consideration in estimating the premium paid in the first instance to the lessor as a consideration for the granting of the lease at the lower rental, but the consideration paid to the lessor upon the granting of the lease is but a part of the premium afterwards paid to the grantee of the lease by a subsequent purchaser. The last-named premium includes the goodwill of the business, as well as the additional value given to the premises by the fact of a licence being attached to them, and the actual trade being done at the premises, or the trade which is estimated to be likely to be done there, is a factor which forms an essential feature of the premium paid by the purchaser to the vendor upon the sale of licensed premises. This is the goodwill.

The defect of the compensation scheme contained in the 10th section of the Bill is that it provides only for one item of the depreciation in value caused by the unlicensing of the premises—namely, their rental value, and ignores altogether the loss of goodwill occasioned by the unlicensing of the premises.

To appreciate the effect of the compensation provisions of Section 10 it is necessary to recognise the entire scheme of the Bill with reference to the reduction of licences and to bear in mind that at the end of the time limit the whole value of all old on-licences is to be swept away and to be confiscated by the State. Therefore, the entire value of an old on-licence is limited to an existence of fourteen years.

The reduction period is fourteen years from April 5, 1909. By Section 44 "The Licensing Justices shall not during the year 1909 refuse the renewal or transfer of any old on-licence under circumstances involving the payment of compensation."

Therefore the effective period of reduction is thirteen years, commencing on the 5th April, 1910, and ending 5th April, 1923.

The first year therefore in which compensation would be paid under the Bill would be the year 5th April, 1910, to 5th April, 1911, but the number of unexpired years would be calculated as from the 5th day of April next after the date on which the renewal of the licence had been refused by the Licensing Justices, or, in other words, from the 5th April, 1911, thus leaving only twelve years as the basis of compensation.

Whatever might be the amount awarded under Section 10 in the first operative year of the reduction period, that amount would be reduced year by year, as the reduction period progressed.

Nevertheless, whilst the amount of compensation is thus dying away, the compensation charge is to be levied to its full amount year by year, until the end of the reduction period, so long as the licence is allowed to be in force.

It may be said that the effect of the scale of compensation to be paid under Section 10 has not been correctly stated, because no effect has been given to the words in that Section "with the addition of such sums (if any) as the Commissioners of Inland Revenue think just to add as compensation for the licence-holder's loss of business, having regard to his conduct and the length of time during which he has been the holder of the licence, and as the compensation for any depreciation of trade fixtures arising by reason of the premises ceasing to be licensed premises." But how can effect be given to a provision so vaguely and loosely stated? Who can judge as to what lines the Commissioners will deem themselves justified in proceeding upon in administering such a provision? The language is very similar to that of the 2nd Sub-Section of the 2nd Section of the Act of 1904, which are, "provided that in the case of the licence-holder regard shall be had not only to his legal interest in the premises or trade fixtures, but also to his conduct and to the length of time during which he has been the holder of the licence, and the holder of a licence, if a tenant, shall in no case receive a less amount than he would be entitled to as tenant from year to year of the licensed premises."

The language of the 10th Section, above quoted, does not enable the Commissioners of Inland Revenue to have regard to the length of lease held by the licence-holder, but only to his conduct and the length of time during which he has been the holder of the licence. He may have purchased the lease shortly before the introduction of the Bill, and have paid many thousands of pounds for a substantial term and a large trade, but there are no words in the Section which would enable the Commissioners to take those facts into consideration in awarding compensation.

OPEN LETTERS, POST-CARDS, AND TELEGRAMS.

To Mr. George Benjamin Shirley, Farmer, Turnditch, near Derby.

Sir,—Do you know what I should like to see done to you? I should like to see you whipped as unmercifully as you whipped that poor mare of yours on the high road at Allestree. You rained blows on it with a cutting whip until, according to a witness, Mr. Henry St. John Raikes, J.P., of Makeney Lodge, "blood and sweat were dropping and forming little pools in the road where the mare stood. Her legs were so much blood-stained that they looked as though they had been painted." The officer who arrested you on the Belper road took you to the police-station, and you were convicted for being drunk. On this charge, he described the condition of the mare from his own inspection. "Its flesh was hanging in shreds between the flanks, blood was flowing from its belly and running down its legs to the ground. Its right eye was closed, its nose was bleeding, and there was a cut on the breast."

The Derby magistrates fined you £5 and costs, because it was your first offence. I really do not know what justice is coming to if a fine pays for the inhuman brutality of such heartless creatures as you. Your place, sir, is in gaol; that is the only fitting punishment for your sickening butcher work. While fines pay for the perpetration of such atrocities on dumb animals, it is hopeless to expect that they will cease. Shame on the magistrates who do not avenge them by the stern justice of the law. How otherwise shall the brute in men like you learn that brutality is to be indulged only at the price of their own severe punishment? How otherwise shall animals with claims to the affection and care of men by protected in their fidelity and service? With all me heart I thank Mr. Raikes for seeing his duty in so clear and so human a light. You, sir, are only to be loathed. You walk disgraced, and you ought to walk ashamed, in the ways of men. John Bull.

To Will Thorne, M.P.

Dear Bill,—Glad to see that you "got off." But don't forget that you are bound over to be of "good behaviour" for a whole year. Rather rough on Pete and O'Grady! They look like losing their money. No more interruptions when John Burns is addressing the House, you know—for that is not "good behaviour"; and no more of those "asides" when an official answer doesn't please you. That, too, is not "good behaviour." I shall have to keep a sharp eye on you, for neither Pete nor O'Grady can afford to lose fifty—it means nearly half a year's wages. So be good and keep calm—and always remember that, in politics, discretion is the better part of valour. Think of those three sisters now languishing at Holloway! John Bull.

To Victor Grayson, M.P.

Dear Vic,—What is the next move? You say you intend to make another appearance in the House, but that you mean to keep the secret of how it will be done. You don't mean to give us a surprise on Guy Fawkes' day, do you? If you do, don't forget where *I* sit, will you? Luckily, it's the seat furthest away from the Government bench! Or are you coming into the Strangers' Gallery one evening disguised as an octogenarian, or a bishop—or a Labour member? And do tell me all about that little dinner. It wasn't the one *I* had with you, was it? If so, and it cost all that money—well, they had you! Shall I question Jacoby about it? John Bull.

To Captain Faber, M.P.

Dear Faber,—I much like the joke of your notice of motion in the House of Commons: "That in view of the difficulty experienced by members of the House in ascertaining the meaning and effect of the various clauses of the Licensing Bill, it is expedient that the draughtsmen of the Bill be heard from time to time at the Bar of the House." I should be even better pleased if you could get the House to incorporate the idea in the Standing Orders, and make it applicable to all Bills introduced into our oft-puzzled and flabbergasted Assembly. If only draughtsmen of Parliamentary Bills were summoned to explain what the dickens they meant by what they said, the House would gain a great deal of time and the lawyers would lose a great deal of money.

O'Connell, you will recall, boasted that he could drive a coach and four through any Act of Parliament that was ever drafted; but our lawyers are kept occupied in the Courts drawing the whole rolling and running stock of the legal circus through it. I don't deny that this may be partly because we try to improve on the bad work of the draughtsmen and make it clear. A member of the French Academy once said that what is not clear is not French, and it would be an excellent innovation in legislation if the Parliamentary draughtsmen were adequately impressed with the fact that what is not clear is not English. When they had explained what they meant to members, members could explain the explanation to each other. As a result we might—I say we *might*—gradually get enactments through which even a chauffeur could not drive a motor car. My benisons on you. John Bull.

To Harry Lauder, Esq., Hôtel Hotel, America.

My Dear Laird,—I obsairve that as defendant i' the legal fecht, United Theatres, Limited, *v.* yoursel, ye've ben gettin' a postponement o' the same till ye come back frae th' United States, whun ye'll be richt glad tae meet the enemy. Ye canna trevil hame noo, being sae busy drawin' the bawbees, fur it wad cost ye mair tae come back than ye wad be takin' haud on if ye got the vairdict. It wad ha' ben verra haird on ye, Harry, if the Court had ordered ye tae leave ye'r salary o' ane thousand poonds a week in America an' come awa at ance. Ye wad ha' felt a bit sair, ah'm thinkin', an' mebbe ye wadna ha' done what ye war telled, ma bonnie bairnie. But the Jedge isna puttin' ye tae the trouble an' annoyance, sae ye can ha'e a guid time drawin' five times as muckle wage as the Prime Meenister till April, when ye maun come hame again.

I ha' no ca' tae tell ye tae tak care o' the siller; ye'll dae that by instinct, I ha'e na doot. Fur ye're a Scottish laird, noo, laddie, an' ye may need it a' in the time when ye've g'in ower tellin' a' the Saxons that ye're the aaftest o' the familee. As tae that, they dinna believe it, tak' ma word for it. We dinna believe it i' the Land o' Cakes, at ony rate. An' I'll bet ye a spoonfu' o' oatmeal tae a wee pinch o' yer baccy that ye dinna believe it neether. Guid luck as lang as ye can get it. John McBull.

To Professor John Mason Tyler, Amherst College, U.S.A.

My Dear Profess,—News has this moment reached me that you have the best shaped head in all the States; also that the brain in it is extraordinarily developed; likewise that you have sold the head, with all its contents, for a trifle of £2,000, for use when you have done with it. Hope you have not sold the wild weird speculators who have bought it, in addition? Can't think what they expect to find in it, or get out of it. Are they buying it as an ornament for a drawing-room, or as an exhibit in the skull department of an anthropological museum? I suppose you have touched the dollars, anyway? You would never sell a head like yours on credit, surely! By the way, is there anything special about your feet? If so, you might throw them into the bargain. Adieu till the *post-mortem*. John Bull.

Charles Trevelyan, M.P., Education Office, London.

Best of all good wishes on inclusion in Government as Under-Sec. for Education. Consider you clever boy, deserving place in upper form. Be good and fear nothing. Bull.

Buxton, Postmaster-General, St. Martin's-le-Grand.

Stewart Headlam, the parson, says crowds lads between sixteen and seventeen passing through Post Office as van boys and messengers are sacked, and swell ranks of unemployed. If true, can't you do something to stop swell? Bull.

Premier, Sophia, Bulgaria.

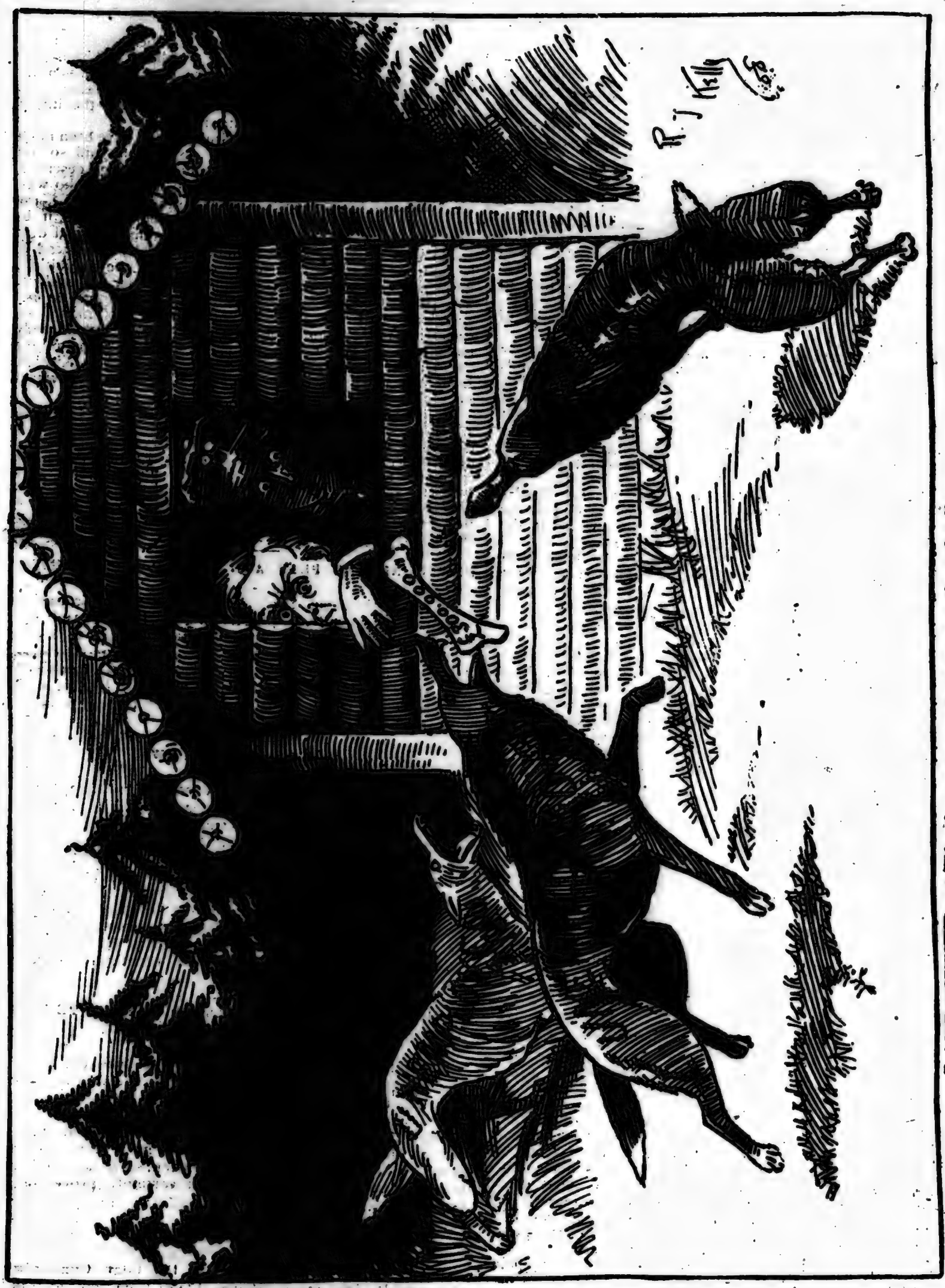
Just learned Turkey will arrange trouble with you on payment £2,500,000 in place annual tribute you've paid last twenty-two years. Better settle up if you want to settle down. Bull.

McKinnon Wood, Foreign Office, London.

Congratulations on your appointment to Foreign Affairs. Trust the Affairs won't be foreign to you. Bull.

Sara Bernhardt, Paris.

Best wishes on sixty-fourth birthday. Hope you still think life fine old play. Bull.



LANDOWNER: "That's not much among the lot."
ASQUITH: "Never mind, if they're not satisfied I'll check you out to them."

IN THE CITY.

"WHITE CITY SCANDALS."

(In which maladministration is indicated in various directions, and the story of the knighthood that missed its way is touched upon.)

A Charity Bazaar in connection with this Exhibition was announced for this week; the Queen was to open it. It has been postponed. Why?

A banquet to Mr. Kiralfy has been arranged for Wednesday next (we write on Monday). It is to be given in his honour by the General and Finance Committees. It will be interesting to have the true explanation of the action of these committees in this matter. Let us take the Finance Committee. When a committee desires to confer honour upon an individual with whom it has been associated the assumption is that its relations with that individual have been pleasant, and that his methods and practice have commanded their respect and admiration. Do we understand this to be the feeling, and the only feeling, that has animated the Finance Committee in its determination to banquet Mr. Kiralfy? What does the Duke of Argyll say to it?

The administration has been a ghastly failure from the beginning. This soon became apparent to the Committee, for the control of finances was taken entirely out of Mr. Kiralfy's hands. The Committee found everything to be in chaos, and determined to have an independent audit, much to Mr. Kiralfy's annoyance.

It was when faced by a penniless banking account that the Committee accepted Mr. Kiralfy's sporting offer of £50,000, which carried with it a £10,000 deposit. Did Lord Welby and the Committee really believe Mr. Kiralfy when he told them that it would cost £100,000 to pull the show down? Is this transaction one of those which in the opinion of the Committee deserve a banquet?

Then there is the staff. Most of the clerks have been engaged without references, and two or three of them are ex-convicts, working under assumed names. Some of these clerks have carried on blackmail extensively, especially in the case of small exhibitors, who have been unable to get anything done without a liberal application of palm oil. Recently two clerks were sent to prison for selling large quantities of admission tickets at 4d. each. In many other cases employees have been discharged at a moment's notice for equally serious offences, but for some reason or other they have not been prosecuted. A week before the Exhibition opened it was discovered that thousands of pounds had been paid out as wages to deadheads during the construction. Is this one of the reasons why the Committee are banqueting Mr. Kiralfy?

The correspondence has been scandalously neglected. Exhibitors complain that no reply can be got to their letters; and the book-keeping is as bad as the correspondence. In addition to owning most of the paying side-shows, Exhibitions, Ltd.—*i.e.*, Mr. Kiralfy and his family—was interested in other ways. Many of the huge palaces—colonial and otherwise—were built by the Company in direct contract with the parties: namely, the Canadian Government, the New Zealand Government, and so on, and the wages of the workmen engaged thereon were paid from a common fund supplied by the Franco-British Exhibition Company, together with the workmen on their own buildings. Such payments were, of course to be refunded by Exhibitions, Ltd., but, unfortunately, so disgracefully have the exhibition accounts been kept that it has been most difficult to say just what has been paid on account of Exhibitions, Ltd. When the Committee began to look into things, and the new auditors got to work, this was discovered, and the Committee requested Mr. Kiralfy to repay to the Exhibition account some thousands which, as they alleged, was wrongly charged. The Committee were in want of monies for the requirements of the Exhibition, and pressed for a cheque. Mr. Kiralfy demurred. He would lend the money, but he could not persuade himself that so much was due. The Committee insisted, and finally Mr. Kiralfy gave them what they demanded in two payments. Is the remarkable system of book-keeping which made this blunder possible one of the things for which the Committee—minus the Duke of Argyll—are about to banquet Mr. Kiralfy?

During construction all exhibitors and concessionaires paid 6d. per load of goods brought in the Exhibition, towards the making of the roads. If our information is correct, no such charge was levied on the materials brought in by Mr. Kiralfy for his own side shows. If it be true—as we believe it to be—that this exception in Mr. Kiralfy's favour was made, is it one of the strokes of genius for which the committee are about to banquet Mr. Kiralfy?

Is it true that the Committee are pressing Mr. Kiralfy to relieve the guarantors? Can it be that this banquet that is being given to Mr. Kiralfy is due, in part, at any rate, to the desire of the Committee to complete the arrangement with Mr. Kiralfy by which the liability of the guarantors would be shifted to those who will be interested in next year's Exhibition?

Is it a fact that Mr. Kiralfy, who has been telling many of the small concessionaires now in the Exhibition that nothing has been arranged for next year, has given his friend Mr. Joe Lyons concessions for five side shows for 1909? Were these representations made with the knowledge and approval of the Committee?

In ordinary course, Mr. Imre Kiralfy would have been made a knight on the opening of the Exhibition, and so far as outsiders could see, the honour would have been deserved, but at least one of the members of the Committee, who was, unfortunately for Mr. Kiralfy, the most influential—*i.e.*, the Duke of Argyll—was of contrary opinion. Can it be that his representations in high quarters had a good deal to do with the disappointment of Mr. Kiralfy? Instead of becoming Sir Imre Kiralfy at the opening of the Exhibition, its organiser is to have a complimentary dinner at its close. We shall await the speeches with interest, but we do not anticipate that the Duke of Argyll will be among the speakers, and although Sir John Cockburn might be ready enough to air his eloquence, and even Lord Selby might be induced to testify to the gratitude due to Mr. Kiralfy, Lord Welby will surely find it a little difficult to wax warm on such a theme.

*** Since writing the above we have received from M. Saunion a copy of a protest sent to M. Camille Dupont, President of the French Committee of the Exhibition in London, and signed by no fewer than 103 of the French exhibitors, in which bitter complaints are made of the way in which, as they allege, "they have been taken advantage of." M. Saunion thinks "a stronger expression" would be justified, but the one we have quoted is strong enough. We shall refer to this matter at greater length in our next issue.

NEWFOUNDLAND PULP AND TIMBER TERRITORIES.

As we anticipated, the price of these shares is rapidly approaching vanishing point. Messrs. Iredale and Co., of "Water" Street, Liverpool, having failed to secure "offers" for their little lot, having then named 10s., and then 7s. 6d., and then 5s., and then 2s. 6d. per share, now state that they "can accept 1s. 6d., free of commission." They must come down a lot more yet before we can advise—a gift.

WARING AND GILLOW.

The meeting of this company seems to have "gone off," as they say in the City, without any hitch. Mr. S. J. Waring, full of hope and enthusiasm as usual, saw nothing but success in the future, and had no difficulty in obtaining the acquiescence of the ordinary shareholders to the postponement of half their dividend. We are bound to believe, after reading the chairman's speech, that he is unconscious of any present trouble requiring the co-operation of the general proprietary, and that he sees his way to steer the big ship through the troublous waters of keen commercial rivalry for another twelve months. We wish him luck.

MARINE ENGINEERING WORKS ON THE NORTH-EAST COAST.

We understand that with a view to reduce the cost of production in the Marine Engineering Works on the North East Coast a scheme of amalgamation is being considered which will be of considerable benefit to the entire shipbuilding industry in the district. The economies to be effected in marine engine building by more concentrated management are so obvious that when such an arrangement is carried through it should certainly prove, both popular and profitable.

"JOHN BULL," LIMITED.

Letters of allotment of the Six Per Cent. Cumulative Convertible Preference Shares have been posted, and the shares are at an eighth premium.

NEW ISSUE.

We direct attention to the Prospectus of the Canada Iron Corporation, which appears on page 448.

FINANCIAL ENQUIRIES.

NATIONAL SHARE EXCHANGE.—A. S. (Brixton).—We have your letter with its enclosures. Send us the newspaper quotations upon which you rely to support your allegation that you have been treated unfairly, and we will go into the matter.

LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.—H. W. C. (Clapham).—Will you tell us why we should furnish you with a list of shareholders of this bank and their respective holdings? If you go to Somerset House and apply to the officials there, and are willing to pay their fee, you will get the information you want.

THREE SHARES.—DOUBTFUL (Manchester).—If you can get anything for the ordinary shares of the Petroleum Company you should sell. We should hold No. 3.

FREEMAN'S BANK.—T. V. (Walham Green).—You should put the matter before the liquidator. ALPHA (Harrow).—Ditto.

RECEIPT FOR SHARES.—J. R. C. (Coleman Street).—There are no dealings in these shares. We return your certificate, but we may observe that when persons send us documents for inspection and advice, the least they can do is to send the necessary postage for their return.

THE COMMONWEALTH OIL CORPORATION.—C. H. B. (Halifax).—We think well of the future of the Company. It is in strong hands, and its prospects are good.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS.—W. S. (Hornsey Road).—There is very little difference.

THE SOUTH-WEST LONDON TRADESMEN'S PROVIDENT SOCIETY.—W. W. (Leicester).—We are inclined to think not.

THE VANGUARD MOTOR BUS, LIMITED.—J. C. (Ulissold Park).—We quite understand your indignation, and agree that you have a considerable grievance, but the facts to which you refer are now rather ancient history, and we see no practical advantage in publishing your letter.

NORTH AMERICAN ASBESTOS COMPANY.—A. J. K. (Penge).—We do not agree with the advice that has been given to you as to the value of these shares.

THE CENTRAL STOCK EXCHANGE, LIMITED.—J. W. (Earlsfield).—There seems to have been a little delay; but, if the account was settled last Thursday, you have not very much to complain of. Let us know if you have received a cheque.

BRITISH NATIONAL PREMIUM LIFE ASSOCIATION.—B. W. (Cardiff).—The name has been changed, but we are assured that all obligations will be met.

NATIONAL PENNY BANK.—W. P. M. (Bristol).—It is quite safe.

THREE COMPANIES.—C. A. H. (High Holborn).—We are afraid you have made very unfortunate selections.

BIRKBECK BUILDING SOCIETY.—H. C. P. (Herne Hill).—It is sound and well managed.

FARROW'S BANK.—NEMICO (Nottingham).—We think it safe.

KLERKSDORP PROPS.—J. H. (Wavertree).—(1) We should cut the loss. (2) Yes, we think dividends are likely to be paid on Grand Trunk Ordinary within the period you name, and that this stock represents an excellent look-up.

STOCK EXCHANGE CORPORATION.—A. S. (Peckham Rye).—You had much better keep your money in the Savings Bank.

GREAT BOULDER PERSEVERANCE.—F. C. S. (Aberdeen).—(1) We do not. (2) Ditto.

RECOMMENDATION OF SHARES.—FERN (Aberavon).—We think you may take it that the connection is as you suggest.

AFRICAN RUBBER COMPANY.—JUNE (Stafford).—You should put all such circulars as the one you send us from Messrs. Brodie and Co., of 42, Copthall Avenue, into the waste-paper basket.

TWO SOCIETIES.—W. C. (Cardiff).—We know nothing against either of the two societies you name.

ARNOLD AND BUTLER.—S. W. C. (Dublin).—We thank you for the circular from these rogues, which shows that the police are still allowing them to prey upon the public. W. L. (Newport).—Be thankful you have got any of your money back. We have returned their letter.

VARIOUS BROKERS.—HAWTHORNE (Edinburgh).—Have nothing to do with them. They charge from 20 to 30 per cent. above the market rate.

LONDON AND MANCHESTER INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION.—J. F. (Hull).—(1) We think so. We have never heard anything to the contrary. (2) Have nothing to do with the other people you name.

MR. JAMES WHEELER, of South Haven, Madeira Road, Worthing, would like to have the names and addresses of those who are wanting a settlement from Tracy, Miller and Co.

ANGLO-FRENCH TRUST.—B. H. (Dudley).—Its transactions are very rascally ones, but we fear you have no remedy.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITIES CORPORATION.—L. W. B. (Manchester).—We can add nothing to the reply you have received from the Official Receiver.

SAPON, LIMITED.—AZALIA (Lewisham).—There are no dealings in the shares, and we have no late information as to the position of the company.

SPINNING AND BALLING COMPANY.—ANXIOUS (Richmond).—We are much of your opinion as indicated in your letter.

THE ST. DAVIDS' GAS AND WATER COMPANY.—H. B. (Bridlington).—There are very few, if any, dealings.

GRAND TRUNKS.—CONSTANT READER.—The probabilities are that they will.

TWO SHARES.—W. H. B. (Hackney).—They are of little, if any, value.

UNIVERSAL STOCK EXCHANGER.—ANNICORN (Coventry).—It is among the most substantial.

SOLVENCY OF COMPANY.—LUCAS (Ilkeston).—We should draw out the deposit, but continue paying upon the policy.

UNITED KINGDOM FEDERATION.—W. R. (Viearstone).—It rests with the Property Insurance Company. We shall be glad to have the experience to which you refer.

GOVERNMENT AND MUNICIPAL SECURITIES CORPORATION.—A. C. (Yorks).—We think so.

BONDHOLDERS' REGISTER.—F. C. (Letchworth).—It can be got from any newspaper shop upon order.

LONDON AND SUBURBAN MUTUAL BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.—P. M. (Balham).—You are complimentary, but we regret that our knowledge does not extend to this society.

TRIPLE COMBINATIONS.—LUPUS (London).—We never recommend "combinations," or anything of the kind. As for a "prospectus" of a scheme in which "you simply cannot lose your money," such rubbish ought not to deceive a child. C. H. (Bury).—See previous answer.

HOLME SHOE MINING COMPANY.—W. H. (Manor Park).—The shares have no value.

SAVINGS INVESTMENT SOCIETY.—H. P. (Chester).—If they are solvent and winding up, we see no reason why you should not accept the small offer they make you.

CERTIFICATE OF SHARES.—IGNORAMUS (West Ealing).—As a rule, you should have the certificate soon after settling day, but sometimes there is considerable delay. If you deal with members of the Stock Exchange, any such delay in your case no doubt can be accounted for by the ordinary course of business.

T. B. (of 153a, Shakespeare Street, Southport) would like to know a good insurance company that will insure under the Workmen's Compensation Act, his business being that of a window cleaner.

TRACY, MILLER AND CO.—R. C. T. (Torquay).—You sent us no cheque.

HOUSE PURCHASE SCHEMES.—ADMIRER (Stamford Hill).—We should prefer an institution of older standing.

LAS CASCADAS PLANTATIONS COMPANY.—H. B. S. (Liverpool).—The answer to both your questions is in the negative.

MARCONI'S WIRELESS TELEGRAPH COMPANY.—NITA (Worthing).—No.

THE SUMATRA DELI RUBBER COMPANY.—ANXIOUS (Kennington Park).—It is not a purchase we should have recommended.

NORTH WALES IRON AND MANGANESE COMPANY.—J. H. (Shepton Mallett).—We note that you consider that the late secretary of this company is deserving the hearty support of the shareholders for his continued efforts to have the affairs of the company thoroughly investigated, and that in your opinion there should be a new board.

COLUMBIA CONCESSION AND SMELTING COMPANY.—S. A. (Wimbledon).—It is not an investment we can recommend.

TAVERNER'S PENSION TRUST.—S. E. (Knightsbridge).—We cannot recommend it.

STOCK EXCHANGE INVESTMENT CORPORATION.—REX (Balham).—No.

SUNDRY SHARES.—J. J. (Newcastle-on-Tyne).—We do not know anything about the last upon your list of investments, but the others are all right.

UNION CONSOLIDATED COPPER MINES.—CAVE HILL (Belfast).—We think there is little likelihood of it.

HUNGARIAN LOTTERY.—A. C. S. (Hythe).—We cannot advise you to send any money to this concern. The odds are enormous against your getting a prize.

STATUS OF BANK.—R. B. T. (Fleetwood).—It is a bank only in name.

FELIGRIAD GOLD COMPANY, LIMITED.—ECCOSAIS (Seven Kings).—We should strongly advise you not to increase your holding.

ULUNDI GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.—F. F. (Hammersmith).—No.

INSURANCE ENQUIRIES.

SCOTTISH LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—BULL DOG (Middlesbrough).—Yes, certainly. Established in 1881, it has been well and cautiously managed, and has a fine bonus record.

MODERN SICKNESS AND ACCIDENT ASSOCIATION.—W. J. (Llanelly).—We know nothing about it.

INSURANCE COMPANY.—R. S. S. (Glasgow).—We think you can make a much better selection.

LIVERPOOL AND VICTORIA FRIENDLY ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—F. F. M. (Bethnal Green).—It depends upon the regulations of the Society, and it is a matter upon which you should communicate with the Secretary.

THE MONARCH INSURANCE COMPANY.—REGULAR READER (Bristol).—We should advise another selection.

WHOLE LIFE ASSURANCE WITHOUT PROFIT.—THISTLE (Burnley).—Try the Yorkshire Fire and Life.

BRITISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION.—J. W. B. (Grimsby).—We think not.

POPULAR INSURANCE COMPANY.—F. W. (Cardiff).—We will try and find out for you, and let you know later on.

THE ISLANDS INSURANCE COMPANY.—W. B. H. (Bristol).—We are obliged to you for allowing us to see the correspondence you have had with this concern. We have frequently warned our readers against it. Your papers are returned under cover.

WORKMEN'S AND GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY.—T. Z.—We know of no sufficient reason why you should not do so.

UNITED KINGDOM TEMPERANCE AND GENERAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.—K. G. C. W. (Nottingham).—It is a highly successful mutual life office with an excellent bonus history. Members who are total abstainers from alcoholic beverages are insured in a separate section from those of others. The mortality from accidents has been satisfactory in both sections, and especially in the temperance. The institution is in every way an excellent one.

BRITISH HOMES INSURANCE COMPANY.—W. B. (Aldershot).—Our advice was general.

BRITISH HOMES ASSURANCE CORPORATION.—H. H. J. (Sheen).—We cannot advise you to accept the offer of a paid-up policy in this corporation for the sum of £150, the policy maturing in 1928, when the corporation undertakes to pay out £220, and reserves the right to pay it out on the death of the assured on the basis of a present value of £250, adding interest up to the date of death at the rate of 3 per cent. compound. H. S. D. (Sheffield).—We think the company has not sufficient capital for the business it undertakes. N. G. (Gillingham).—See previous answers. H. S. D. (Sheffield).—Ditto.

NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—SAUSAGE (Fetter Lane).—We cannot recommend it.

CENTURY INSURANCE COMPANY.—WAITING (Hastings).—(1) The head office is in Edinburgh. (2) Have nothing to do with the first or second of the other companies you name, but the Liverpool Victoria is a sound concern. (3) Have nothing to do with the Islands Company.

THE ALBION ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION.—H. P. (Highgate).—You appear to have been badly treated in the matter. We have frequently warned our readers against having anything to do with this concern. We return your papers. FACTORY HAND (Clifton).—We entirely agree. In the hope of raking in subscriptions, these people are making offers which they know quite well they cannot fulfil. G. H. W. (Nunhead).—We note your experience with this company, which is quite unworthy of public confidence.

INSURANCE OF LIFE.—F. G. (Wealdstone).—There would be no difficulty in insuring in the way you name.

MUTUAL PROPERTY INVESTMENT AND ACCIDENT COMPANY.—ENGINEER (Glasgow).—We have no information upon the point.

WORKMEN AND GENERAL INSURANCE SOCIETY.—W. S. (Ilford).—We have heard of nothing to the prejudice of the society.

STATUS OF INSURANCE COMPANY.—W. S. (Birmingham).—The two companies you name are in the front rank of insurance companies. J. W. D. (Leeds).—We should prefer another selection.

PROVINCIAL HOMES INVESTMENT COMPANY.—A. B. (Manchester).—It was pretty certain that, after the remarks of Judge Parry, there would be a series of actions against the company; but that does not affect the opinion we have formed in the matter, whilst it emphasises our contention that the company has legitimate ground for complaint.

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—A. S. (Bristol).—We do not consider your friend was justified in making the very unqualified statements reported by you. We should continue the assurance.

John Bull Six Per Cents.

We are prepared to deal in these shares, our present quotation being 1-1⅛, *that is to say, par to an eighth premium; or, in other words, we are buyers at* £1 *per share and sellers at* £1 2s. 6d. *per share, fully paid. The shares are entitled to a Cumulative Preference Dividend of six per cent. per annum, and they possess the further right to be exchanged at the option of the holder into Ordinary Shares.*

APPLY SECRETARY, JOHN BULL INVESTMENT TRUST & AGENCY, LTD., 87, LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.

AMONG THE BOOKS.

By Herbert Vivian.

"All Things Considered," by G. K. Chesterton (Methuen: 5s.) is a collection of feeble and foolish journalistic pot-boilers about nothing in particular, or, as the writer prefers to put it, "a collection of crude and shapeless papers upon current or rather flying subjects." He informs us that "it is so easy to be solemn; it is so hard to be frivolous." After glancing through his hotch-potch, I can quite understand that he finds it so. Here is an instance of his strenuous attempts at frivolity: "The clerk of Mr. Solomon gets the sack: the beautiful Greek slave of the Sultan Suliman also gets the sack; or the sack gets her." Ha! ha! ha! Further on he makes the superfluous statement: "I do not urge that I am a *(sic)* humourist; but I do insist that I am a Cockney. . . . I believe firmly in the value of all vulgar notions, especially of vulgar jokes. When you have got *(sic)* hold of a vulgar joke, you may be certain that you have got *(sic)* hold of a subtle and spiritual idea." This Mr. Chesterton is evidently a mere journalistic hack without either style or grammar, and the only thing in his favour is that he seems to be well aware of his shortcomings. Thus he informs us with great truth that "if all goes well, this book will be intelligible gibberish." It certainly is that, so I suppose he may rest satisfied, but I am puzzled that an editor and a publisher should have encouraged him to gibber. The least one can expect from a journalist is accuracy about journalistic matters. Yet we find this scribe, who has probably spent all his life in the purlieus of the Fleet, gravely informing us that "the front page of the *Times* is full of long leading articles." I do not read the *Times* myself, but I always imagined that its front page was composed of domestic and other advertisements.

"Some Threepenny Bits," by George W. E. Russell (Richards: 3s. 6d. net), is a more excusable resurrection of fugitive papers; for Mr. Russell has seen much and remembered more; he writes as a gentleman, not as the scribes; he overflows with good nature, invariably inspires good temper. As I turned over the pages, I could almost persuade myself that I was sitting at dinner with Mr. Russell and asking him to pass the port or the nut-crackers. Among the many anecdotes with which the book is crammed, I venture to select one or two:—

> The late Duke of Abercorn, a very keen Harrovian, used to give an annual dinner at the King's Head, and on these occasions a sovereign was placed in each boy's napkin. Once an invited guest failed to appear, his napkin remained unfolded, and as soon as our generous host rose from the table, we swooped down upon the vacant place, in eager quest of the derelict sovereign. But it was gone; and, for the remainder of that quarter, we watched with suspicious eyes the expenditure of the two boys who had sate right and left of the empty chair. Any unusual profusion in the way of "strawberry mashes," ices, or meringues would have created the darkest suspicions.

This story of an election is new to me. The candidates were Lord Monck and Mr. Thackeray, the novelist. The rivals met in the High Street and exchanged salutations. "Well, Lord Monck, I hope the best man will win." "I hope *not*, Mr. Thackeray."

This also is rather neat. "After Eton had been (as usual) very badly beaten at Lord's, my old schoolmaster, Mr. E. E. Bowen, wrote a song which contained the following verse:—

> Oh, then, with fast and slow,
> Up go their bails a-floating—
> Not this year, Eton, no!
> Go home, and take to boating.

But Dr. Butler, the headmaster, thinking this 'an unhandsome exultation over a fallen foe,' deftly turned the boast into a benison:—

> Oh, then, with fast and slow,
> Up ball and wicket dances—
> Not this year, Eton, no!
> Good night, and better chances."

Mr. Russell has a way with him, and no one can feel angry with his sentiments, even on the question of sportsmanship:—

> As soon as the fight is over, we ought to pretend that we love our victorious adversaries very much. While we are still smarting under defeat, we ought to declare that the winner is the grandest fellow in the world. When we know that the other side has won the day by beer, bribery, and slander, we ought to declare (when seconding a vote of thanks to the Returning Officer) that the election has been fought out in a thoroughly honourable and gentlemanlike spirit. For my own part, I regard all these eulogies and euphemisms as hoary humbugs; and, if such is the language of Sportsmanship, I rejoice that I am no sportsman.

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VICTORIA FALLS POWER.

A STRONG POSITION.

The first annual general meeting of the Victoria Falls Power Company, Ltd., was held at Salisbury House, E.C., on Friday last. The Marquis of Winchester, president of the company, presided.

The Chairman, in moving the report and adoption of the accounts, said:—We are confident, and I trust that you will also be so, that we now occupy a very strong position, both financially and otherwise, and I desire to emphasise this point because there have lately been circumstantial rumours in regard to the proposed formation of

A Company to Compete

with us in the supply of power on the Rand. You will naturally wish to know how this matter stands, and you have the right to know our attitude in regard to it. Our attitude is a determination to oppose this talked-of attack upon your interests by every means in our power. (Loud applause.) We may be wrong, but I for one cannot believe, in spite of the positive statements which have been circulated, that either underwriters in the first place, or private investors in the second, will support a competitive scheme of this character. (Applause.) Why should they? The game cannot be worth the candle. We do not propose to surrender any of the position which we have secured for you upon the Rand without a struggle, which, if necessary, will be strenuous and protracted, and from which, if we are compelled to take part in it, we are confident that we shall ultimately emerge victorious. (Loud applause.) I am quite aware, gentlemen, that the promoters of this project disclaim any idea of such a struggle as that which I have indicated. They are representing themselves as quiet, peaceable folk—(laughter)—who are only anxious to put up plant to fulfil certain contracts which they have secured, that they are quite satisfied with those contracts, that they have no wish to interfere with us, and that they cannot understand why we should resent their intrusion into our field. I can only characterise such

Statements as Untrue and Misleading.

I do not say that they are wilfully untrue within the knowledge of all those who have made them. On the contrary, their authors, in some instances, undoubtedly implicitly believe them to be true. Gentlemen, it is an insult to one's intelligence to ask one to believe that a company such as it is desired to promote could or would limit its operations in the manner suggested. (Hear, hear.) We do not believe these statements, and no sane business man could take any other attitude; and the more so because we know that the contracts at present secured for the proposed company have been accepted at very closely-cut prices, and we assume, as we must assume, that it will naturally be anxious to arrange these contracts with others giving a higher return. This being so, we are bound also to assume that such a company would eventually try to compete with us in the sale of power throughout the Witwatersrand, and that

Cut-Throat Competition Must Continue

until one or other of the competing companies absorbs or destroys its rival. (Hear, hear.) This has been the history of competition on every other field, and it is not likely that the Witwatersrand would prove an exception. Experience has shown that such a state of affairs is in no one's interest. The rival suppliers of power have all their expenses increased, and in the end the consumers have to pay. (Applause.) While the fight lasts there is instability—instability of price, unrest, and uncertainty. We recognise the evils of such an undesirable state of affairs, and we are determined to prevent it on the Rand by every means in our power. We shall fight this proposed undertaking from start to finish, and we rely upon your support. (Loud applause.) But, as I have previously said, I cannot believe that this project will commend itself to anyone besides the promoters and the consumers—the ultimate benefit to investors would, on the best assumptions, be so uncertain and the present risks so great. No doubt estimates can and will be given to the public to show that even at the low prices at which contracts have been taken there will be a margin of profit. That is to be expected. But I shall be interested to see who will vouch for the

Accuracy of the Local Data

upon which the calculations of profit must ultimately depend, and what margin has been allowed for contingencies. (Applause.) I also wonder if this margin would suffice to cover the cumulative effect of our unrelenting opposition. We have had some experience ourselves of the difficulties attending the establishment of a new business upon the Witwatersrand, and can form some idea of the troubles which any rival concern will certainly experience. (Applause.) I venture to prophesy that if the proposed company be formed a close correspondence between estimates and results will be hard to attain. (Hear, hear.) In these circumstances I cannot see what can be the inducement to any investor who has not unexpendent and ulterior objects to serve to put his money into a concern of this character. Before any revenue can be earned at least two years must elapse, for, unlike ourselves, the proposed Company would not be able to carry on a large business during the construction period. There must be a long period during which the value of shares will probably depreciate seriously. Bearing this in mind, I cannot believe that underwriters, who are usually shrewd business people, will be willing to pay cash at par for industrial securities which during the continuance of a protracted struggle will certainly command a low price and be difficult to negotiate. (Applause.) Of one thing at any rate I am confident, which is that if underwriters can in these circumstances be found, the British investing public, when it knows the whole of the facts, will not be willing to relieve them of the consequences of their folly. (Loud applause.) Before I conclude I will add

A Further Word of Warning.

The cloud of depression which has now for many years hung like a pall over the Rand mining industry has been the result of many contributing causes, of which one has undoubtedly been a widespread feeling among investors that they have not in the past always received fair treatment. (Hear, hear.) Of late years, I am glad to say that much has been done to dispel that feeling, and with reviving confidence the prospects of the great gold industry have recently been bright. But confidence is a tender plant, and I am quite certain that if it should occur that the capital which you have embarked in industrial enterprise upon the Rand be endangered through the action of a great Rand house, a shock to credit will be administered of which the direct and indirect consequences will be far-reaching and disastrous. (Loud applause.)

Mr. H. Wilson Fox, vice-president of the Company, seconded the motion for the adoption of the report and accounts, which were unanimously approved, and the proceedings terminated.

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ARTHUR HENRY, Secretary.

AMONG THE LAWYERS.

MAGISTRATES AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

We have received the following letter from Mrs. W. H. Barrett, of 147, Evelina Road, Nunhead, S.E.:—

> My child is suffering from ringworm in the head, and they have sent her home from school; yet they have summoned me for non-attendance, and on Thursday I was fined 12s. or five days' imprisonment at Lambeth Police Court. I had two doctor's certificates to say she is suffering from ringworm, and the Act of Parliament says that no child must attend school whilst suffering from a contagious disease, so what are we to do? They won't have her at school, but yet they summons me for non-attendance.

We have satisfied ourselves that, incredible as it may seem, Mrs. Barrett's statement is correct. The complaint of non-attendance is made by H. E. A. Coates, an officer of the London County Council. It was made to Mr. Cecil Chapman, sitting in the Lambeth Police Court, and is dated September 17th, 1908. It is complained that Mrs. Barrett "unlawfully neglected and omitted to cause her child, Gladys Barrett, to attend school, to wit on September 8th, 1908."

Mrs. Barrett's answer is that the child was at that time suffering from a contagious disease, ringworm, and that statement is supported by documentary evidence.

On July 17th, 1908, the school teacher of the Holydale Road School wrote to Mrs. Barrett as follows:—

> I am in receipt of a notice of the Council's medical officer to say that Gladys must be excluded from school. An examination of her hair stumps has shown that she has ringworm. (Signed) M. A. Bayers.

On September 3rd the teacher writes to Mrs. Barrett as follows:—

> Gladys is excluded by the Council's doctor's order after an examination of the stumps of her hair. I cannot have her back until she is cured.

On September 8th the head teacher writes to the mother:—

> The nurse says that Gladys' head is worse.

The day after the complaint was laid, *i.e.*, September 9th, the head teacher writes to Mrs. Barrett:—

> Yesterday the London County Council nurse examined her (*i.e.*, the child) and said she was worse, therefore I cannot have her back.

On September 10th the summons came on for hearing at the Lambeth Police Court and was adjourned. On September 16th Mrs. Barrett obtained the following medical certificate:—

> This is to certify that Gladys Barrett is suffering from *Tinea tonsurans* (ringworm), which at present disables her from attending school.
>
> (Signed) Waring Robinson,
> Duly qualified Medical Practitioner.

Mrs. Barrett tells us that the Court "absolutely declined to look" at the certificate. On the second occasion she took two certificates in proof of the ringworm, but notwithstanding she was fined 12s. or five days' imprisonment. On the summons it is stated that 12s. was paid on the 24th September, 1908, the signature being that of the jailor.

We find it very difficult to use conventional language in commenting upon a case like this. A woman is warned by the County Council's Medical Officer that her child is suffering from a contagious disease and must not be sent to school. In obedience to that instruction the child is kept away from school, but anxious not to keep her away longer than is necessary, the mother time and again applies to the head teacher to allow her to go back, and time and again she is told she is still suffering from the disease and must not return. That opinion is enforced and confirmed by medical certificates. Meantime the County Council officer issues summonses for neglecting to send the child to school. Mrs. Barrett is a working woman, who can only leave her business at much loss and inconvenience to herself, but on two occasions she attends the Lambeth Police Court to answer this charge. She puts two medical certificates before the magistrate, and she tells the plain tale we have told here. The magistrate, if we are to accept her word, and we know of no reason to question it, refused to look at the certificates, and the documents before us show that he fined her 12s.—a considerable sum for a person in her position—or five days' imprisonment. Really it is too bad.

LEGAL ANSWERS.

Companies' Act.—R. H. S. (Darlington).—We are afraid it would not be competent to introduce any new provisions into a purely consolidating Act.

Action or Executors.—Tiger (Camden Town).—It is impossible for us to help you in the matter. You say that your brother did not buy the Consols, but you do not support the statement with a scrap of evidence, and we cannot possibly say whether it is true or not.

Can you do with a Guinea?
If so, . . .
What is your number?
SEE PAGE III. OF COVER.

"BLACK & WHITE" WHISKY
BUCHANAN'S POPULAR 'SCOTCH.'

"LUNTIN" Mixture
"Light and cool"

Smokers unable to obtain "Luntin" from their Tobacconist may have a sample posted by sending six penny stamps to the Manufacturers,
THOMSON & PORTEOUS, EDINBURGH.

ONE HEALTHY DOG
is worth a whole Kennel of Unhealthy ones.
MOLASSINE DOG CAKES
will keep Dogs in perfect health, with splendid coats, a clean skin, and free from worms, from which dogs in general suffer so much.
These Cakes contain all the antiseptic, digestive, and health-giving properties of the renowned animal food,
MOLASSINE MEAL.
If your Grocer or Corn Merchant does not stock, write to
THE MOLASSINE COMPANY, Ltd.,
20, Mark Lane, London, E.C.

Wolsey Underwear
All pure wool
Replaced free
If it shrinks

BOVRIL

EVERY SMOKER OF

Black Cat Cigarettes

FINE MATURED VIRGINIA—MILD.

may secure a copy of Queen Alexandra's Christmas Gift Book, entitled "PHOTOGRAPHS FROM MY CAMERA."

Carreras, Ltd., have purchased a large number of the Queen's Christmas Gift Books for presentation to their customers.

Every Smoker of Black Cat Virginia Cigarettes may obtain a copy under the easy conditions given below. Remember this unique book which is sold in aid of Her Majesty's charities, will have an enormous sale, and it is doubtful if the supply will be equal to the demand.

The Queen's Gift Book will be treasured as a souvenir of the greatest interest—a book which will become exceedingly valuable in the future. Make sure about your copy.

Read the conditions below.

Our Free Offer of the Queen's Gift Book. Every time you buy a packet of Black Cat Virginia Cigarettes keep the empty outer case with the sealing bands attached.

When you have 100 cases send them to us, with your name and address enclosed, and one copy of the Queen's Gift Book will be sent securely packed and post free.

Another way to get The Queen's Gift Book. In order that every smoker will have an opportunity of getting a copy of the Queen's Book in time for Christmas, we have decided to give three optional ways of securing a copy.

1. Send 20 empty packets and 1/- in stamps.
2. Send 50 " " 6d. "
3. Send 75 empty packets and 3d in stamps.

Cases from 6d. packets count as two.

In the event of sending less packets than 100, the amount paid will be refunded on receipt of the extra packets to make 100. This offer will remain open to 1st February, 1909. The paper sealing bands must in all cases remain attached to the empty packets.

All applications for the Queen's Gift Book to be addressed, "The Queen's Gift Book," Carreras, Ltd., St. James's Place, Aldgate, E.C.

If your tobacconist cannot supply Black Cat Virginia Cigarettes, Ten packets of 10 Cigarettes will be sent post free for 2s. 6d. from Carreras, Ltd., 7, Wardour Street, W.

For the cigarette smoker.

Only the Finest Matured Virginia Tobacco is used in the manufacture of Black Cat Virginia Cigarettes. There is no better Virginia Tobacco to be had

at any price.

The reputation of Carreras, Ltd., who have been established for 120 years stands behind this statement

Black Cat

FINE MATURED VIRGINIA

Cigarettes

(WITH THE MALTESE CROSS)

10 FOR 3d.

The smoker can test.

Light a Black Cat Virginia and any other Virginia cigarette together—no matter at what price. Smoke from each alternately and pass the smoke through the nose (this is the way to test Tobacco). If your verdict is not for Black Cat, then our life time's experience of tobacco is not worth that.

BANKING

COMING DEVELOPMENTS IN ENGLISH BANKING

The history of English Banking affords one of the most interesting studies of modern times.

Great credit is due to those men who have successfully established and built up on a solid foundation these great money emporiums.

Those in control of our London Banks recognise that no enterprise or industry can remain stationary—it must either progress or decay.

New sections of Banking have to be created, and the increasing requirements of customers specially and carefully catered for.

One of the most recent departures is the introduction of Guaranteed Bankers' Cheques, which are destined to eventually take the place of travellers' letters of credit.

The Mercantile Bank of London, established sixteen years ago, has introduced these cheques in a particularly attractive form, inasmuch as they can be made out for any amount from 6d. upwards, and are of equal convenience to a Postal Order.

The Prospectus just issued by this Bank is worth attention and study, dealing as it does very fully and minutely with the increased benefits and advantages that can now be secured by Country customers with London Banks. The question of Current Accounts for small Traders is dealt with, also the vexed point of interests on deposits. The issue of Guaranteed Bankers' Cheques is fully discussed and explained, and a chapter devoted to Banking Profits and the Public is well worth the careful perusal of those who have banking accounts or contemplate opening a banking account in London.

A copy of this Prospectus will be forwarded Post Free on mentioning JOHN BULL to THE SECRETARY,

THE

MERCANTILE BANK OF LONDON LTD.,

King's House, King Street, Cheapside, London, E.C.

Established 16 years

MOTOR CARS ON EASY PAYMENTS.

	Cash Price.	Cash Down.	12 Monthly Instalments of
Argyll, 14-16 h.p.	£180	£49 10 0	£12 19 10
Darracq, 15 h.p.	135	50 17 6	13 7 1
De Dion, 10-12 h.p.	200	55 0 0	14 8 9
Dennis, 16-20 h.p.	150	41 5 6	10 16 7
Herald, 20 h.p.	250	68 15 0	18 0 1
Peugeot, 10-12 h.p.	120	33 0 0	8 13 4
Panhard 24-35 h.p.	350	96 5 0	25 5 4
Simms, 15 h.p.	120	33 0 0	8 13 4
Simms-Welb ch. 25-30 h.p.	250	68 15 0	18 0 1
Whitlock Aster, 25 h.p.	225	73 17 6	19 2 7

We can supply any make of car, new or second-hand, on the above system. We always have a large selection of second-hand cars in our showrooms in good running order. Any reasonable trial will be given, and cars can be examined by the Autocar or other Motor Experts.

BARGAIN ACCESSORY CATALOGUE.

A Great Saving to Buyers. Revolution in Prices.

We have a big demand for saleable Cars at the present time. Send particulars.

How to run a Motor Cheaply. Write for Free Book.
Post Free on mentioning JOHN BULL.

Call or Write the Manager,

The London and Paris Exchange Motor Agency, Ltd.,

55-59, SHAFTESBURY AVENUE, LONDON, W.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST OPENED MONDAY, 26th October, and CLOSES this day, THURSDAY, 29th October, 1908.

THE CANADA IRON CORPORATION, LIMITED,

(Incorporated 1908 under Dominion of Canada Letters Patent).

CAPITAL, $8,000,000 STOCK IN $100 SHARES,

Divided into $3,000,000 Six per Cent. Preferred and $5,000,000 Common. Of these, $2,759 000 Preferred Stock and $4,687,000 Common Stock will be issued as fully paid to the Vendors of the properties below mentioned. ISSUE OF

£500,000 Six per Cent. First Mortgage Sterling Bonds,

Due 1st July, 1938. Part of a total authorised issue of £600,000, of which £100,000 is held in reserve, and £136,000 is taken in exchange Bond for Bond by holders of Bonds in the Consolidated Companies, and the balance,

£364,000 IS NOW OFFERED FOR SUBSCRIPTION.

The whole of the amount now offered has been underwritten: £100,000 having been underwritten in Canada. £120,000 has been taken firm.

The Bonds will be issued to Bearer in denominations of £500 and £100, with half-yearly interest Coupons attached, payable 1st January and 1st July in each year and Principal and Interest is payable in Sterling at PARR'S BANK, 4, Bartholomew Lane, London, E.C., or at the fixed rate of exchange £1—$4.86⅔ at the Offices of THE MONTREAL TRUST AND DEPOSIT COMPANY, MONTREAL, and will contain provisions for registration of the principal at the option of the holder.

PARR'S BANK, LIMITED, is authorised by the WESTERN CANADA TRUST, LIMITED, of 1, Church Court, Clement's Lane, E.C., the Contractors for the loan, to receive on their behalf applications for the above-mentioned amount of £364,000 at

THE PRICE OF £99 10s. PER CENT.,
payable:—

£5 on Application,
£10 on Allotment,
£35 on January 1st, 1909,
£49 10s. on March 15th, 1909,

or the whole may be paid up in full on Allotment or on any subsequent date under discount at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

THE MONTREAL TRUST AND DEPOSIT COMPANY are authorised to receive subscriptions in Canada.

The complete Prospectus, which can be obtained from the Bankers, Brokers, and at the Office of the Western Canada Trust states, inter alia, as follows:—

The Canada Iron Corporation, Limited, has been incorporated to acquire and consolidate under one management the properties and businesses of the following existing Canadian concerns:—The Canadian Iron and Foundry Company, Limited; The Canada Iron Furnace Company, Limited; John McDougall and Co.; The Annapolis Iron Company, Limited; also the majority of the stock of The Londonderry Iron and Mining Company, Limited.

Holders of the Bonds and Shares in the consolidated Companies are exchanging their respective holdings for securities in the Corporation, and no cash is payable to the Vendors for the properties acquired.

These Companies own Iron Mines, Factories and Foundries situated in convenient positions in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia.

The Directors of the consolidated Companies have for years been carrying out a scheme of establishing iron works at strategic points throughout Canada, so as to control the growing market of the Dominion with the least possible cost for transportation. As will be seen from the map accompanying the prospectus, the properties of the Corporation are so situated that, while conveniently dealing with trade in the East, they also command a large Western trade through the newer establishments at St. Thomas, Midland, and Fort William.

FURNACES AND FOUNDRIES.

The Furnaces have a combined capacity of about 87,000 tons of pig iron per annum.

The Foundries have a capacity of from 125,000 to 150,000 tons of castings per annum.

It is intended to use part of the proceeds of this issue in doubling the capacity of the Furnaces and adding to the Foundry Plants.

The Foundries are principally engaged in the manufacture of cast-iron pipes and chilled-iron car wheels. They have contracts with municipalities and other public bodies throughout the Dominion for pipes, and regularly supply car wheels to The Grand Trunk Railway System of Canada, The Canadian Pacific Railway Company, The Canadian Northern Railway, The Michigan Central Railway Company in Canada, Pere Marquette and Wabash Railway, The Intercolonial Railway, and other Important Corporations.

MINES.

As regards the Annapolis and Mayo Mines Mr. Selkirk reports that at the present time there are in these Mines about 4,000,000 tons of proved ore which can be worked at a profit, and that there are great probabilities of further quantities of ore.

The following extracts are from Mr. Hardman's reports:

As regards the Bathurst Mines, I consider this mine the most valuable ore I have examined in Canada. It is the largest body of iron ore known to me to exist in the Dominion to-day.

There are three principal ore bearing areas that I estimate contain in the aggregate 20,000,000 (twenty million) tons of merchantable iron ore (hematite) carrying 53 to 55 per cent. of metallic iron, this estimate being arrived at after rejecting all ore running below this standard.

If a valuation is made on a royalty basis of one dollar per ton, which is the common price in the United States, and in my opinion a very moderate one in this instance, on account of the proximity of the mine to the seaboard, the Bathurst property will show at least twenty million dollars. Even if we cut this royalty down to 50 cents per ton the mine shows a value of $10,000,000.

The report of Mr. Hardman on the Bathurst Mines is confirmed by the following cable received from Mr. A. H. Strong, New York, who has recently made an examination of the property:—

"New York, October 10th.

"Able approximately substantiate Hardman's figures Bathurst. I estimate three and half million tons 50 per cent. Ore can be won opencast 75 Cents F.O.B. Bathurst Harbour eleven million (tons) 50 per cent. additional to depth 340 feet not exceeding $1.00 F.O.B. with probable large tonnage merchantable Ore still deeper."

The Directors believe that a very large profit will be realised through the sale of ores, and that the valuations placed upon the mines by the Engineers are fully warranted, but they have taken all the iron properties at a much lower figure into the statement of assets.

EARNINGS.

The earning power of the properties now in a development or constructive state will, the Directors estimate, bring the revenue of the Corporation up to over $600,000 per annum within the next three years.

ESTIMATED PROFITS

Mines—250,000 tons at $1 per ton	$250.000
Furnaces, with capacity 150,000 tons per annum at $1 per ton	150.000
Foundries, with increased capacity	200.000
	$600.000

Much larger profits are anticipated, and the Directors feel confident that the above figures are on the safe side, being based upon a very small profit per ton of output.

In the meantime the interest on the Bonds is already amply covered by the earnings of the plants of the Corporation now in operation, as shown in the following paragraphs.

Mr. George Creak, Chartered Accountant, of Montreal, acting jointly with Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co., of London, on behalf of the Western Canada Trust (Limited), reports as follows:—

We certify that the profits, before charging interest, Directors' fees, or provision for depreciation, have been as follows:—

Canadian Iron Furnace Co. (Ltd.), year ending 31st October, 1907	$133,653.56
Canada Iron Furnace Co. (Ltd.), year ending 30th April, 1907 ..	62,555.44
Of John McDougall and Co., Mr. Creak states as follows:—Owing to the fact that only estimated inventories of stocks on hand have been taken prior to 1906, it is not possible to certify to actual earnings, but having made a careful examination of the books for the last two years, I estimate that the average annual profits for that period have amounted to not less than	8,500.00
	$257,261.00

The financial crisis in the United States caused some falling off in trade in Canada during the last winter, but the earnings of these Companies have been well maintained in the circumstances.

Mr. George Creak, auditor of the Canadian Iron and Foundry Co. (Ltd.), certifies the profits for the twelve months to 31st May, 1908	$154,720.83
Messrs. Savage and Fisk, Chartered Accountants, of Montreal, the auditors of the Canada Iron Furnace Co. (Ltd.), certify the profits for the year ending 30th April, 1908	58,759.53
Add John McDougall and Co.	8,500.00
	$221,980.41

The Directors of these Companies consider that depreciation has been fully provided for by the amounts expended on renewals and additions to plants, and charged direct to running expenses.

It is intended to apply to the Committee of the London Stock Exchange for an official quotation of the Bonds.

Brokerage at the rate of ½ per cent. will be paid on allotments made to the public in respect to applications bearing the stamp of Brokers, Bankers, or other agents.

Prospectuses and Application Forms may be obtained from the Bankers and the Brokers, and at the office of the Western Canada Trust (Limited), and a draft of the Trust Deed and the valuations of the properties may be inspected at the offices of the Solicitors during business hours prior to the closing of the list.

DIRECTORS:—THOMAS J. DRUMMOND, of Drummond, McCall and Co., Montreal, President; George E. Drummond, of Drummond, McCall and Co., Montreal, Director of Molson's Bank; Edgar McDougall, of John McDougall and Co., Ironfounders, Montreal, Vice-President Cumberland Coal and Railway Company; C. C. Chipman, Commissioner, The Hudson's Bay Company, in Canada; H. Cockshutt, Managing Director of the Cockshutt Plough Company, Brantford, Ontario; George Gudewill, of Bremen, Merchant, late of Gudewill and Buchnal, New York.

LONDON COMMITTEE OF DIRECTORS:—Sir James Heath, Bart., Director of Robert Heath and Sons (Limited), Ironmasters, Stoke-on-Trent; I. Hamilton Benn, Director of Price and Pierce (Limited), London, of Price Brothers (Limited), Quebec, and of the Western Canada Trust (Limited); R. W. Cooper, 14, Austin Friars, London; John R. Tennant, 6, Old Jewry, E.C., Chairman of the Anglo-Canadian Finance Company (Limited).

TRUSTEES FOR BONDHOLDERS:—Montreal Trust and Deposit Company, Montreal.

BANKERS:—Parr's Bank (Limited) (in London); Bank of British North America (in Canada); Molson's Bank (in Canada).

BROKERS:—Messrs. Laing and Cruickshank, 3, Drapers' Gardens, E.C.; Messrs. Fielding, Son, and Macleod, 3, Copthall Buildings, E.C.

SOLICITORS:—In Canada: Messrs. White and Buchanan, Montreal. In London: Messrs. Surtees Philipotts and Co., 4, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C.

AUDITOR.—George Creak, F.C.A., Montreal.

OFFICES OF THE CANADA IRON CORPORATION (Limited).—Canada Life Building, Montreal.

AGENTS IN LONDON.—Western Canada Trust (Limited), 1, Church Court, Clement's Lane, E.C.

THE CANADA IRON CORPORATION LTD.
(Incorporated 1908 under Dominion of Canada Letters Patent).
Offer at 99½ per cent. of £364,000 6 per Cent. First Mortgage Sterling Bonds, part of an issue of £500,000.

To PARR'S BANK (LIMITED),
Bartholomew Lane, London, E.C.

Gentlemen,—I (we) hereby apply for and request that you will allot me (us) £..... of the above issue of Six per Cent. First Mortgage Sterling Bonds of the above-mentioned Corporation, and I (we) hereby agree to accept the same or any less amount thereof that you may allot to me (us) upon the terms of the Prospectus dated the 24th day of October, 1908.

I (we) enclose a remittance for £....., being the deposit which is payable on application at the rate of £5 per cent. on the amount of Bonds applied for, and I (we) agree to pay the further instalments payable in respect of the Bonds allotted to me (us) in accordance with the terms of the said Prospectus.

Ordinary Signature .....

Please write Distinctly.

Name (in full) .....
(State whether Mrs. or Miss.)

Address (in full) .....

.....

Date.....1908.

This form can be used.

SLAVERY AND COCOA.

A CONFERENCE.

British Precept—and Practice.

Last Thursday the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society held a conference to consider what is best to be done in the matter of servile labour on the cocoa plantations in the Portuguese islands of St. Thomé and Principe. The Press were not invited to attend the conference—a mistake, as it seems to us. If anything is to be done by the Foreign Office to improve the condition of the wretched labourers on these islands, it will only be done by the pressure of public opinion, and public opinion is not to be created by private conferences. At the conference there was no difference of opinion upon the facts. They are admitted in all their badness, and those who want to know how bad they are should study Mr. Burtt's report, which can be bought for 3d., and Mr. Nevinson's book, which is a damning indictment of the whole system. But the point is, how can England end it?

It is not, fortunately, a question of simply sentimental interference with the affairs of an independent Power. We have treaty rights in this matter. As far back as 1815 the British Government waived the balance of a considerable loan of this country to Portugal on the specific undertaking that Portugal would abolish slavery throughout her dominions. From time to time since then this undertaking has been renewed in solemn documents, but from first to last no attempt has been made to give effect to them. England has therefore a right to insist upon the observance of treaty obligations which would make a continuance of the present state of things in the islands impossible, and, failing compliance, to send a man-of-war to the West Coast to prevent the landing of any further emigrants.

No decision is likely to be taken until the return of Mr. Cadbury, who has gone to the islands to examine for himself the state of affairs there, and to see whether any attempt has been made to improve the conditions existing at the time of Mr. Burtt's report. If Mr. Cadbury comes back and reports that there has been no improvement, and no likelihood of it, he and the other leading cocoa manufacturers are pledged—as they informed us in their joint letter addressed to us, and published in our issue of June 27th—to cease buying cocoa from St. Thomé and Principe plantations. But that of itself would probably not be enough to materially help the labourers there, and it would be for the Foreign Office to consider what steps England herself can take on their behalf.

Meantime, what of ourselves? The Continental Powers are apt to charge us with hypocrisy, and we fear that the charge is often sustained. Is there no ground for it in this present matter of slavery? We are shocked when we read Mr. Nevinson's glowing pages and listen to the eloquent denunciations of speakers at the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society meeting. But if these denunciations are to be effective we must clean out our own stable. Now, just as Portugal has islands on the West Coast of Africa where men work under slavery conditions, we have islands on the East Coast—St. Thomé and Principe on the one side, Pemba and Mafia on the other. We do not say that the horrors of the Portuguese islands find a counterpart in our own, but we do say that slavery exists there to-day as it existed before we took them over fifteen years ago. At that time Lord Salisbury, who was Prime Minister, undertook that all men upon them should be free, but effect has never been given to that undertaking. Lord Salisbury's attention was called to the matter time and again, and he made many promises, but the slavery continued. Lord Salisbury passed, and Lord Lansdowne took his place, but Lord Lansdowne did nothing. Lord Lansdowne is in opposition, and Sir Edward Grey has been at the Foreign Office nearly three years, but the status of the labourer in Pemba is the same to-day as when he took office. Slavery still exists and is recognised in these two islands. Why? How can Portugal be persuaded that Sir Edward Grey and the Government he represents are earnest and determined in their endeavours to compel her to do away with slavery in her dominions when it still flourishes under the British crown?

TRADE NOTE.

Jack's Reference Book.—Messrs. Jack's Reference Book, which claims to be a book of reference embracing thirteen important reference guides in one, is the most comprehensive work of its kind it has so far been our fortune to meet with. It comprises glossaries on artistic, musical, legal and nautical matters; a social, an educational, a grammatical, a Parliamentary, a medical, a commercial, a legal and a local government guide; an English dictionary and general cyclopædia, and a useful dictionary of quotations and of characters in fiction. It is astonishingly cheap at three and sixpence.

SOUND FINANCIAL METHODS.

THE TRIUMPH OVER PREJUDICES. VICTORY OF REFORM.

There are few studies that afford greater pleasure or give greater satisfaction to the studiously inclined nature than a careful examination of the rise and fall of ancient nations, or the gradual decay of old traditions and the absorption or extinction of old institutions. The student, if he so desires, can trace how from these past great traditions a new code of ideas has gradually evolved, while from the structures of old historic houses new enterprises more fitted to deal with the altered conditions of time have been brought into being.

THE BATTLE WITH PREJUDICE.

All great reforms that have tended to shake settled beliefs or to upset established methods have had to contend with both prejudice and violent opposition. It has been so in religion, in politics, in banking, in finance, and so it has been in the establishment of the London and Paris Exchange, Limited, an institution founded to give greater and more extended facilities for financial transactions and dealing in and obtaining advances on Stock Exchange securities. The directors wish to congratulate their supporters that, notwithstanding all this opposition, they have succeeded in establishing their enterprise, and they are convinced, from the progressive advancement of their business, that they occupy to-day a high position in public favour. The sound and liberal principles on which the business is conducted justify the belief that future years will witness a continuance of steady and healthy expansion, and bring increased prosperity.

MODERN INVESTMENT.

To-day investment is on very different lines from what it was twenty, or even ten, years ago. The sphere of investment has been considerably broadened, and methods have become greatly diversified.

PROFITABLE INVESTMENTS.

What the investor must do is to make it his business to obtain all necessary information from trustworthy sources. See that your money gives you a fair return, and that it is not locked up in unmarketable securities, where there is practically no chance of appreciation in capital value, and when you wish to realise there is no market to sell on. But, naturally, the investor asks, "How am I to obtain this knowledge? How am I to avoid being drawn into schemes which will mean loss of money to me? How am I to clearly understand the intricacies of money matters and Stock Exchange investments?"

A VALUABLE BOOK.

The whole subject of investment and finance is lucidly and thoroughly explained, in a clear, practical manner, in "Modern Banking and Investment," a book which has been specially compiled by experts on all the varied financial subjects of the day. It is intended to help and assist those who desire that their capital shall be safely invested and at the same time yield a good return. It also lucidly explains the complicated technicalities of all Stock Exchange operations—it affords a complete encyclopædia to the Stock Exchange, and how profits can be made.

To the Secretary,
London and Paris Exchange, Ltd.,
Basildon House,
Moorgate Street, London, E.C.

Please send me gratis and post free your book, entitled "Modern Banking and Investment"

Name .....

Address .....

[John Bull Coupon.] .....

BULL'S EYES.

Some Unfounded And Confounded Rumours:—
That the Government has not a lot of overdue Bills to meet.
That the Income Tax Commissioners know how to put the "screw" on.
That the Suffragette rush was a "rush."
That the Berlin Treaty is to be amended by Berlin Entreaties.
That Calcutt has been "squared" to "round" on his pals.
That Mr. Idris' favourite text now is "The woman beguiled me."
That they call it the Belabour Party in the L.C.C. now.
That the Children Bill will end in smoke.
That the women who wear big hats have heads to correspond.
That the reported Government guarantee of £10,000,000 will make the Chartered Company's Rhodesia.
That the Confiscation Bill is *not* a bad example for the Unemployed.
That Victor Grayson has been very much put out.
That the railways are going too far.
That they call it Beau-street now.

Curious that when nations "fall out," the subjects should "fall in."

"Big Hat.—Seems years since I saw you," says a recent "Agony." He should make her take it off.

Though Mrs. Travers Symons was only in the House for a moment, she immediately caught the Speaker's eye.

An Anagram: Local veto—Call vote O.

The *Mail* criticism of Hall Caine's "My Story," states, "We like best the end." Unkind.

Judge Willis recently confessed that he had not a Sunday suit. Yet he gets new ones every day.

The choir of a Lowestoft Wesleyan Church has struck because a woman organist has been appointed. She produces discords.

"The fight with the fly will be a stiff one," says the *British Food Journal*. No, doubt, on paper.

An *Express* correspondent suggests as a solution of the Suffragist problem, that the women should be married to the unemployed. Rather rough on the workless.

A new comedy, "Mrs. Bailey's Debts," is announced. It ought to pay.

"The English novelist is gradually annexing the English stage," says the *Book Monthly*. But the peerage is getting its share.

Mr. Runciman challenges other nations to produce three men "like Shakespeare, Sheridan, or even Bernard Shaw." G. B. S. thinks the "even" very odd.

It is stated that the demand for charwomen is far greater than the supply. They should be called chary-women.

"A debt of gratitude makes most of us bankrupt," says Frank Richardsen. But we always "owe" gratitude?

Nowadays, when a man mentions he is "run down," it is almost a matter of course to ask him if he took the number of the car.

Seventeen players were rendered unconscious during a recent football match in America. A stunning game.

"What to Wear when Flying,' is the title of an article in a morning paper. Personally, *we* shall want wings.

"Men aren't dangerous in themselves," says Horace Wyndham. But they are when they can't contain themselves.

Mr. Asquith declares that the pen has become the servant of the spade. But one can still get some nasty digs in with the former.

A school for office boys has been opened in New York. But where is the office boy who thinks he has anything to learn?

"The Man Who Understood Women," is the title of a recent book. It is fiction, of course.

The recent article in the *Express* on "How to Catch Things" should have been published before the holiday season.

The Aeronautical Society is purchasing a tract of land "for experiments with flying machines *of divers kind*." Personally, this is the kind *we* should keep out of.

The men who broke into Mark Twain's house no doubt hoped to find the Innocents Abroad.

According to the *Morning Leader*, women are the nerves of the theatre, so the man behind the matinee hat may be said to suffer from nerve trouble.

"Dumping in Pictures," reads an *Express* heading. More "canvassing" tricks, we presume.

The motor-car is going to solve the Back to the Land problem.

The oldest bridge on the Thames is called New Bridge, and is 800 years old. The span of ages.

LOTTERIES.—THE FIRST DUTCH INSURANCE CO., LTD., Against risk in lotteries. Registered at Somerset House, August 28th, 1908. £10 Premium payable in full or on the "Times" system of monthly payments. Write for Prospectus: 4½ Cannon Street, London, E.C. Agents wanted.

DOCTORS ENTHUSIASTIC OVER NEW DISCOVERY.

Where medicines and drugs and other stimulants have not only hopelessly failed to help nerve-sufferers but also aggravated their ailments, the most eminent physicians have to admit their helplessness after so-called tonics and stimulants have played havoc with the brain and spinal marrow (nerve-centres) of nerve-sufferers by driving them to misery. From actual experience, tangible proof is being given to the world of the marvellous results achieved by Dr. Hartmann's "Antineurasthin," demonstrating clearly that his discovery cannot fail to have a lasting effect upon the health of the nations.

Since all nervous affections arise in the brain, and are caused by malnutrition, *i.e.*, its starvation, the cure for Neurasthenia lies in the question of supplying the nerve centre with proper food to allow due strengthening.

We are to have no more drugging of the system; we are to have no more expensive and exhaustive useless and harmful treatments; or otherwise. All we have to do is to feed the brain with the nerve-forming food it needs and Nature will do the rest.

This method of treatment that Dr. Hartmann has proved to be eminently successful may be thus detailed.

Food, when taken into the body, is used in various ways for general nourishment. Certain foods are used for fat production, others for the manufacture of bone, and yet again, other parts of food are used up in the production of brain tissue. Now, since all nervous affections arise in the brain, and are caused by malnutrition, *i.e.*, its starvation, the cure for neurasthenia lies in the question of supplying the nerve centres with the necessary food for the strengthening of the whole nervous system.

Now, in all foods—in some more than others—there are brain-forming materials. They are scientifically known as Mylene, or Lecethine. Under natural conditions the "best" food contains but a trace of this wonderful substance, and therefore it is impossible in the ordinary way to absorb into the system sufficient quantity to effect an appreciable improvement in a neurasthenic case.

"It is in brief a question of administering a sufficient supply of nerve-feeding elements to balance the rapid waste of nerve tissue caused by the unnatural strain of present-day life, by a rapid repair."

The result of Dr. Hartmann's brilliant experiments has been to prepare a nerve food in which the brain-forming element is sufficiently strong to at once have a beneficial effect.

To this new discovery Dr. Hartmann has given the title "Antineurasthin," and already most remarkable cures have been effected by its administration.

Antineurasthin is a preparation which contains all the nerve-building materials, "Lecethine" in a highly concentrated form. It is easily assimilated, and the benefits it confers are lasting. It has therefore nothing in common with medicines, drugs, or other stimulants. It is the natural nerve food, which nourishes the nerve system independently of the body. To every one requiring a genuine tonic, to the man whose nerves have become unstrung through business worries, to the woman who has become supersensitive or morbid, this simple remedy will prove an inestimable benefit.

Dr. Guiseppe Lapponi, physician in ordinary to His Holiness Pope Pius X., speaks in the highest praise of Antineurasthin. The most remarkable testimony, however, of its phenomenal efficacy lies in the fact that not only are our most eminent physicians everywhere prescribing Antineurasthin to their patients, but in many instances they are taking Antineurasthin themselves.

The fact cannot be too strongly impressed upon the minds of our readers that nervous disorders, no matter how slight, must not be neglected or played with. The small "worry" of to-day becomes the morbid melancholia or breakdown of to-morrow. It is useless to endeavour to seek temporary "stimulation" in chemical or other so-called tonics, which can but have a serious after-effect—a loss of Nervous Force.

It is certain that there are many readers of this paper who at times feel the effect of brain fag, and who suffer from depression, failing memory, lack of concentration power, headaches, neuralgia, nervous debility, or any other nervous complaint—to those, as well as to those who are confirmed neurasthenics, the best advice that can be given is, "Accept the offer made you here. Obtain a free trial supply, sufficient to demonstrate the wonderful effect of Dr. Hartmann's nerve food and test its merits without delay."

All applications for free trial supplies of Antineurasthin and free copies of Dr. Kuhner's treatise, addressed to the Antineurasthin Company, 41, Botolph House, Eastcheap, London, E.C. With each application two penny stamps should be enclosed to cover cost of postage.

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[The Editor *replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.*]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when sending cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

Our Christmas Box Scheme.—*In view of the heavy work involved in the examination of claims, we shall be obliged if our readers will send in any coupons they may have in hand up to the end of the present month; and, further, if they will adopt a similar course at the end of November.*

John Bull Six Per Cents.—*Readers desirous of acquiring a proprietary interest in* John Bull *are referred to the notice at end of our City article, on page 442.*

Messrs. Faudels, Ltd., inform us that the newspaper report upon which our Open Letter last week was based was incorrect in several important respects. It appears that the man Lewis was 21 years of age, and not 31, that he had been in the employ of the firm about 5 years, that he left and was away for over 12 months, returning about a year or so ago, when he begged to be taken back as he was very badly off, and out of sympathy the firm took him on temporarily to do a boy's work at £1 a week. The firm was not aware that he was married, and, as a matter of fact, since his conviction his place has been taken by a boy from school at a salary of 10s. a week. We are very pleased to give publicity to this statement.

R. C. M. (Leicester).—Just check the figures again. The number to be multiplied was 12345679.

F. A. W. (Peckham) relates an unpleasant experience which occurred to him. At midnight one Sunday he started with three friends to walk to West Wickham. Arriving at Mason's Hill at one o'clock, they were surprised by two policemen, who threatened them. F. A. W. and his friends walked on, laughing and talking. Presently they saw the two policemen running after them. They were seized roughly and marched off to Bromley Police Station. They were charged with disorderly behaviour and kept in separate cells for nearly four hours while their addresses were verified. Then they were let out on bail of £2. They surrendered on the Tuesday morning, but were not given a fair chance to speak, and were each fined 5s. and 2s. 6d. costs. It sounds hard lines, but, of course, we have no means of verifying the facts.

L. E. F. T. (Brighton) does not appear enamoured of his residence. He says:—"The stink-carts or refuse-gatherers at restaurants and eating-dens perambulate the streets almost to midday. Musicians of doleful tendencies sing for hours in the streets such cheering melodies as 'Good-bye for Ever' and 'Bid me Good-bye.' These, executed by a harsh voice and a worn-out piano accompaniment cause one's coffee to become turbid and the cigarette rank." Poor chap!

D. B. (Leytonstone) inquires about some home employment people called the Imperial Art Supply Co. (17, Ranelagh Avenue, Fulham, S.W.) They are fishy.

"An Average Commercial Traveller" (Burton Overy) sends us some of Mr. Pete Curran's criticisms of commercial travellers, and thinks we shall be glad to know that members of the House of Commons are not the only persons who have failed to attain to the same intellectual standard as the honourable member.

"Farm Labourer."—What led you to expect common-sense from his Lordship?

T. F. (Tottenham) asks about the Employers' General Bureau (48, Strand). He paid 5s., and has had no satisfaction.

W. R. K. (Peterafield), in congratulating us on our Agapemone disclosures, rightly observes, "Old Brigham Young was a saint compared to Pigott."

J. T. (Wokingham).—We really don't remember whether anyone else wrote from your town. We note that the poor old man who was removed from Lucas' Hospital to the workhouse survived for thirty-three days. Anyhow, he was very badly treated, and is now dead. Our chief object in referring to the case was to prevent other aged inmates of the hospital from being sent out to die when helpless and destitute.

"Viva Ora, N.Z." (Fulham) suggests that a fourth standard school boy should be added to the board of directors of the District Railway in order to teach them to put up the names of their stations so that they may be distinguished from advertisements of pills.

The Manager of Messrs. Spiers and Pond's Laundry and Dye Works writes to inflict a further castigation upon our correspondent H. W. (London) who objected to an outing for the laundry girls. He points out that no portion of the expense of this outing was borne by the company, the total cost (with the exception of about 15 per cent. which is contributed by the employees themselves) being provided out of the profits, which a committee of the workers make by catering for their 400 fellow employees. He adds that this profit, amounting to some £200 per annum, pays not only for the annual outing, but for winter entertainments. We entirely agree with him that, even if the cost of the outing had been borne by the company, there could certainly be no better investment than the expenditure of a small sum, which "brings a little change into the lives of the workers, and must improve the relations between employer and employee."

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Your employer pays for trained men.

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That's the man you want to be. *That's* the man *you can* be. No matter what education you may or may not have had, the I.C.S. way will make you a positive *master* of your work, or of the line you want to enter. And the fact that you are a *practical workman* is all the more a help in your favour. For

The I.C.S. system of training men for their work while at their work absolutely supplies the means you want to make you succeed.

The I.C.S. course prepared for YOU has the one definite aim of increasing YOUR earning power by increasing YOUR TECHNICAL EFFICIENCY.

Are you content to work on and on, *hoping* for advancement, *wishing* for more money, yet not so trained as to be *sure of getting it?* With the I.C.S. training you become the "Know-the-Reason" man that employers *must have*. Use the long winter evenings to make you that man, to fix you firmly on the road to *promotion, success, and final independence*.

Post this dated coupon, and ask us any questions you choose. We shall answer gladly.

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59 K., CHANCERY LANE, LONDON, W.C.
Also at MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM, and GLASGOW.

I am interested in your system of Technical Training and desire to increase my earning power. Please send me, post paid, free of charge, the book covering the subject before which I have marked X on the coupon, and full information how I can succeed in same.

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A DRAW[ER] BACK

to oilcloth and spurious Linos is the fatiguing amount of scrubbing they require. This is a form of stooping labour a woman ought to avoid, because it not only gives her a careworn look, but it bends her shoulders and thus gives her a prematurely old appearance. With CATESBYS' CORK LINO this serious result is avoided, because our LINO —the original Cork Lino—needs *no* scrubbing. Samples, designs and prices free.

Catesby & Sons, Desk 20, 64-67, Tottenham-Ct.-Rd., W.

A Light Nourishment for General Use.

'Allenburys' The DIET

Recommended for general use in place of ordinary milk foods, gruel, &c. It is very sustaining and nourishing and whilst acceptable to all as a light nourishment, it is especially helpful to the Invalid and Dyspeptic. The "Allenburys" DIET is a food for Adults and is quite distinct from the well-known "Allenburys" Foods for Infants.

In tins at 1/6 and 3/- of Chemists, &c. A large sample sent for 2 penny stamps.

ALLEN & HANBURYS Ltd., Lombard St., London.

Jamrach and Co. (199, Piccadilly, W.) acknowledge the receipt of our biscuit, and inform us that "as it was too heavy for the lift, a crane was erected in the office." They threaten to send us a box of Jamaica cigars, and trust that, in the event of their doing so, we shall have a fine day for our funeral. In conclusion they inform us that the biscuit rightly belongs to the advertising department of the *Referee*.

F. C. (Kingsway) says that J. McLagan cannot have been married at Holy Trinity Church, Aldwych, on December 7th, 1895, because Aldwych was not made at that time by the London County Council, and because the church never did stand in what is now Aldwych. He says that in 1895 it stood in Little Queen Street, Holborn, which now forms part of Kingsway. In any case we do not see why we should be expected to eat the leek for McLagan's topographical error.

Mr. Arthur S. Hall, to whom we wrote an Open Letter of congratulation on his recovery from lifelong blindness, sends us a warm letter of thanks, and desires us to mention that the eye specialist who cured him was Mr. William Mellor, of 168, Oxford Road, Manchester. He informs us that he is now able to tell the time by an ordinary watch, and can read fairly large letters, even our open one perhaps. He has been assured that in the near future his cure will be complete. Bravo!

F. G. B. (Newcastle-on-Tyne).—We have almost forgotten about the Marathon race by now. We have had a word with the "lady of education and means."

G. F. B. (Bow) asks what the intelligent heathen will think of the fanatical objections to the procession of the Host. The poor heathen must often be perplexed.

E. H. C. (Worcester).—Prince is buried under the *drawing-room* window at Sparton; Pigott first *privately* proclaimed himself as "sent of God" 10 years ago, and publicly in 1902. He is not insane, but simply a clever, scheming rogue.

G. V. W. (Alloa) objects to our phrase "Bosnia and other parts of Austria," and points out that Bosnia is not a part of Austria. It is for all practical purposes, but, even if it were not, we have the authority of Herodotus, who wrote about "horses and other camels."

"A Woman Reader of John Bull" (Sydenham) takes up the cudgels for Daisy Lord, and insists that a man who betrays and deserts a girl ought to be made responsible if she is foolish and wicked enough to commit infanticide. But our correspondent admits that as "the majority of unprincipled men woo and betray their victims under fictitious names and utterly false pretences," it might often be difficult to catch them. We entirely agree that "these terrible crimes could largely be prevented by making the position of the outcast mother and child less like hell upon earth." She also suggests that this would be done "by making the child legitimate as far as its mother is concerned." The real remedy would be to teach the general public to exercise a little more charity, and persuade Christians to practise the principles of Christianity instead of preventing an unmarried mother from earning the means of existence.

"Halifaxonian" (Cardiff).—Douglas Hamilton has never been ordained a clergyman of the Church of England; he has, however, been licensed as a lay preacher, and in this capacity Pigott met him in Dublin, when the latter was curate at the Mission Church of that city.

"Anti-Humbug."—We dealt with Sir T. P.'s connection with Barker's some time ago, and you will see a further reference to the matter in last week's issue.

R. H. P. (Manchester).—Don't you know that in all cotton mills the operatives describe as "couplings" all places in the machinery that have to be lubricated?

C. B. (Brixton) and Many Others.—Of course, "cloth" was a misprint of "cotton."

C. J. W. (Stratford), H. P. (Millwall), and others, send us interesting answers to the query, "Why did Inspector Drew leave the force?" As, however, we are not quite satisfied, we have decided to ask the Home Secretary.

T. M. (Southampton) hopes that Mr. Lotinga's tip for "John Bull 6 per cents." will prove as good as his Cesarewitch prophecy.

The Secretary of Slater's, Ltd., writes in reference to our recent par, that we have evidently been misinformed.

> "The Company," he says, "employs a large number of young ladies, the majority of whom have been in its service for years, and they rarely leave unless to get married. The relations existing between the Directors and the staff have always been of a mutually satisfactory character."

We are delighted to hear it.

C. R. A. (Bristol).—What a roasting we get, according to the *Birkenhead News!* Strange, we didn't know it before!

"Nihil" (Goodmayes).—We think that so far Grayson has the best of it. I hope you are *fit*.

R. C. T. (London).—We are glad to hear that our article has had such a good effect.

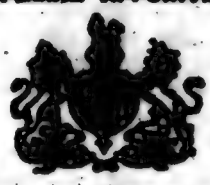
B. S. (Harrow), G. S. R. (Harlesden), J. G. H. (Bristol), "Quidnunc" (Bayswater), "Sphinx" (Cromer), J. M. (Bridlington), C. W. P. (Goodwick), G. F. P. (Swansea), Miss L. F. F. (Harrogate), N. S. L. (Sydenham), J. M. B. (Knotty Ash), W. S. (Sheffield), H. H. (Hailsham), C. H. (Oxford), V. H. C. E. (Ilford), "Gordon" (Whitley Bay), "Old Portsmouthian" (Stamford Hill), A. D. (Finsbury), F. J. B. (Hoxton Street), W. C. (Omagh), H. R. B., J. P. (Waltham Cross), R. C. S. (Kettering), S. H. P. (Birmingham), "Oryza" (Rathgar), H. F. (Euston), J. T. (Swansea), W. H. L. R. (Gracechurch Street), J. G. R. (Edinburgh), F. W. B. (Bristol), H. S. (Loughborough), R. M. (Wanstead), "Hercules," H. W. (Nottingham), J. W. G. (Aston), J. V. (Nottingham), F. A., G. F. P. (Abertillery), C. B. (Leicester), G. M. (Norbury), R. W. S. (Clapham), W. C. H. (Chorlton-cum-Hardy), C. A. R. (Liverpool), J. T. F. (Rochester), T. S. (Dundee), A. S. (Hackney), C. T. H. (Devonport), R. D. H. (Harringay), G. S. (Highgate), J. T. B. (Bonham Wood), E. N. (Bourne), G. G. (Brockley), J. G. B. (Tollington Park), H. P. (Leicester), "A Constant Reader" (Hendon), G. M. (Shoreditch), H. J. W. (Enfield), H. H. (Birmingham), J. K. (Liverpool), G. W. (Mile End Road), R. R. K. (Manchester), and W. S. W. (North Shields).—Tanti saluti ed un bacio per il bimbo.

(We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.)

LIPTONS

BY SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

TO H.M. THE KING OF ITALY.



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Growers of the Finest Tea the World can Produce.

NO MIDDLEMEN'S PROFITS.

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LARGEST SALE IN THE WORLD

A MEXICAN CARNEGIE.

THE LOST MINES OF THE MONTEZUMAS.

Nothing in history has ever equalled the thrill and glamour of El Dorado. Cortes and his Spanish conquistadores fought and trampled and despoiled the ancient Aztec treasure-houses. Quetzacoatl, "the fair god," has for ever sailed away in his snake-skin boat. The Sacrificial Stone no longer drips with blood beside the splendid Sun City. The ancient and gnarled Tree of the Dismal Night still refuses to tell where the natives concealed their vast treasures of gold, loyal yet to the brave Montezuma, last of the Aztec kings, who died rather than reveal the hiding place. Only prehistoric temple ruins and Toltec pyramids remain as mute monuments to a marvellous and weird civilisation that was old when the Christian era began. Land of mystery, and shadow—and treasure!

From whence did these ancient Aztecs procure such unmeasured wealth that surpassed Solomon's, and makes our modern Rothschilds, Rockefellers, and Carnegies look like amateurs? Direct from their native mines. Gold, in such abundance that their cities fairly shimmered under the southern skies; and yet they had only scratched the surface. Then came the Spaniards—and small wonder! But after them came oblivion. For centuries only the native Indians and half-breeds spasmodically searched for the "lost mines," and in their ignorance, superstition and laziness toyed with the untold riches that lay under their feet.

A Hole in the Ground.

Down in the mountains of Chihuahua some years ago lived a poor Mexican *peon*, named Alvarado and his boy Pedro, who chased over the hills clad only in his breech-cloth. The father took life easily, having recourse for a livelihood to a little mine on the top of a hill which he worked only when necessity required. And this is the setting of a romance that brings the Arabian Nights down to date; a tale that dare not be told were not the hero and his "find" world renowned. The father died, and the son, grown to manhood yet as ignorant of letters and methods as his sire, turned to his only heritage, a hole in the ground. The "hole" had always paid, even with antiquated methods; but one day the "peon" struck ore that even he detected as different, and at once showed it to a white man. The story of the famous Palmillas Mine is known to the world. In five or six years it has paid over £2,000,000 sterling, and is to-day shipping ore of undiminished values with no question of cessation.

But what of the ignorant half-clad peon? He is now Don Pedro Alvarado, who, patriotic in his impulses, offered to pay the national debt of Mexico from his mine. Go to the town of Parral, and you may see his magnificent brown and white palace, all of cut stone, built round the cool patio where the fountain plays and the Don dispenses his hospitality. You will find his palace furnished with the best that the European capitals and the States can devise, his table served with the choicest of vintages, his carriage houses replete with fifteen of the finest equipages that money can procure, and his stables stocked in a manner befitting.

The Unspoilt Child of Nature.

But Don Alvarado has not changed with his environment. Success cannot alter for him the habits of youth. Handsome upholstery and carved four-posters are for others; for him at night a simple mat upon the floor. Perhaps nowhere could be found a man upon whom suddenly acquired and vast wealth has had so little effect. The Don is of a deeply religious temperament, and is firmly convinced that this large acquisition of money is divinely entrusted to him as steward; that all the treasure of these mountains belongs to the people of his beloved Mexico. To that end his contributions to charity and benevolent activities are without number. Far away at the nation's capital he has a large manufactory simply to afford employment. His pay list at the mine carries some four hundred names drawing full pay, although only half of that number are actually employed, and some have never seen the mine. Throughout Mexico the peasant children are usually but poorly clad; not so at Parral, where every poor child, thanks to Don Alvarado, is comfortably clothed. Indeed, every Sunday is the Don's "gift day"; and in the afternoon a great crowd of the poor of Parral gathers at his palace door, sure that they will find there a large bushel basket full of shining silver *pesos*, a dollar for each and every of the throng. Such is the 20th Century romance of a Mexican *peon* who can neither read nor write, but is a New-World Croesus without avarice and without guile. And the old Palmillas Mine day by day continues to erupt its stream of wealth.

But this is Only a Part of the Story.

The famous mine is on a seam or vein of wondrous richness. The rich ore of this vein extends beyond the 7½ acres of Don Alvarado's claim, and is specially in evidence on another claim but a short distance away. Here the vein is forty feet wide, and the same high grade ore that has made the Mexican peon a multi-millionaire is found right on the surface; and—what is better still—has been proven of a deep and continuing character by a shaft that has been sunk 150 feet. Naturally, jealous eyes were turned on this vast mass of Nature's treasures, but in vain; for the claim has for years been tied-up by testimentary litigation, and Mexican mining laws are very strict. Within the past year the case has been settled, and the property acquired with absolutely clear title. Mining experts say that beyond question it will equal its famous neighbour, while Don Alvarado's former mine superintendent, who is now working in the new mine, confidently declares that it will far surpass the Don's property.

British Enterprise.

A well-known City company, with characteristic London enterprise, has succeeded in procuring an option on a very limited number of shares of the company owning this property, and which they are able to offer to immediate applicants at their nominal value. As news of Mexican opportunities naturally reaches the States more quickly than London, these shares are in great demand there; consequently the time limit on the English option is very short and haste in application necessary. Undoubtedly a second Don Alvarado opportunity is at hand, and investors will not be slow to grasp it. Applicants for small amounts will receive as prompt attention as those for larger ones. All details together with Prospectus, will be promptly furnished by Lloyd Ettlinger and Co., 6, St. Swithin's Lane, E.C.

The Turkish Bath Man Talks to You.

I sell Gem Turkish Baths. I sell them for profit—to make a living. This is quite true—I cannot live on air, but my business results from my enthusiasm for Turkish Bathing, and the benefits I derived therefrom ten years ago, long before I started to sell Bath Cabinets. I have never needed a doctor since, nor have my children been under the doctor. I sell my Specialities for health and happiness—for health alone means the greatest happiness. I sell for a profit, but I use what I sell. I believe in my Cabinet. I impeach no business man's ethics, but I do say no man believes in what he sells more than I do.

I find it easy to keep well and happy. I find it easy to keep my children well and happy. I find it easy to keep the doctor at bay. But it is not easy for everyone. I know some people who are always very ill, and very unhappy. I know still more who are always out of sorts and never quite happy. I know many more people who are like barometers—set fair one day, cloudy and depressed the next. I suppose there are many people always well, always fit, but if you look around you will be surprised to find how few you know.

If you would lead an active outdoor life you would be better. That is the up-to-date doctor's remedy for nearly all the ills—he has more faith in it than drugs. But you cannot buy exercise and fresh air in a bottle. It is a delightful remedy, but to the worker it is simply impossible. The average man cannot hunt or golf three or four days a week, or follow cricket, yachting or mountaineering. He is lucky if he gets two or three hours' cycling a week, and even then it must be very mild exercise, for sedentary habits make serviceable exercise impossible.

My Gem Turkish Bath does for me what exercise in the fresh air does for the man who has heaps of money and plenty of leisure to follow a vigorous sport. It keeps me fit, and it will keep you fit. The Gem Turkish Bath does in a very short time what exercise achieves in a much longer period. It keeps the pores of the skin acting freely—perspiring—which is the underlying principle of all exercise. But my Cabinet is a much more practical method, because it gives the same result as exercise without interfering with the business and social round.

I do not have days of weariness and discomfort. I seldom have aches or pains. I do not constantly catch colds and spend uncomfortable days nursing them. I do not go about with a head like lead. I use the Gem Cabinet regularly. If I am tired after a hard day, the Gem Cabinet restores me. If I have a symptom of chill or cold the Gem Cabinet checks it in the first stage of development. If I have a hint of muscular trouble, the Gem Turkish Bath Cabinet drives it away. My Gem Turkish Bath will do the same for you, for your family, for all who are ill. It assists nature in a reasonable, logical, practical way.

Count up your doctor's bills, your drug bills, your going-away expenses—chasing the health you never find—that elusive quality which means happiness. The pounds you spend—the pounds you work so hard to make. And the hours you waste in dreary, depressing painful days and nights—hours at work which might be done better and made more profitable, hours of precious leisure which you cannot enjoy, hours when you should sleep, but which you spend in unreasoning terror, waiting for the dawn. My Gem Cabinet costs only 30s.—less than a tiny doctor's bill, less than a week-end away, less than your bill at the chemist's for drugs which do you no good.

My Gem 30s. Cabinet will make you a better man or woman every week of your life. You will wonder how you lived without it when you have had the Cabinet in your home for a fortnight, and you will marvel at the sheer joy which comes to a constantly ailing man or woman who gets well—right well—radiantly, confidently, splendidly well—for the first time. And if it will help to convince you, let me tell you that hundreds of physicians use and recommend this Cabinet.

Write for full particulars, mentioning JOHN BULL or call and inspect it. It costs you nothing to know all about it. It might mean your physical salvation. There is nothing of the "confidence trick" about health specialities. You can reason out everything for yourself, and decide safely whether it is any good to you. Apply to my Company, the Gem N. Supplies Company Limited, 22, Peartree Street (Near Gas Co.'s Office), Goswell Road, London, E.C.—[ADVT.]

JOHN BULL'S WOMENFOLK.

By Mrs. Bull.

In Motley and Bells.

One of the most *chic* fancy dresses possible for a bright, lively girl is the parti-coloured costume of a "Folly." With tiny bells jangling as she walks, and a Punch's head on the end of a stick as a sceptre, Miss "Folly" can commit many an impertinence and extravagance on the score of merely "living up to her part." Not much is recorded of the feminine professional fools and jesters of olden times, but we know they existed, and sometimes earned goodly incomes. There are hints in old documents that lead to the supposition that these merry ladies were inclined to discard feminine skirts and adopt some form of knickerbocker costume No "joculatrix" has stamped her personality on history save the one who rode a charger into the state banqueting hall of Edward II., and, with many a jest and antic, presented the King with a serious petition from his nobles, begging him to dismiss some unpopular Royal favourite. From this dangerous task being given to the "joculatrix" it seems likely that they were allowed as much license as were their male professional rivals. Sometimes a jester's "cheek" would nearly cost him his life, and then save it again. One over-presuming individual was banished, and forbidden to tread English soil under pain of death. But his bravado brought him to Court a few days later with his shoes full of sand from the French coast, and the king agreed to accept this quibble. Another time the same wight was condemned to be hanged, but he obtained the favour of deciding upon the tree. Naturally, not a tree grew but Mr. Jester declared it to be in some way entirely unsuited for this particular purpose. It was a French jester who begged that his forfeited life should be spared should he commit some offence for which his excuse should be worse than the offence itself This being agreed to, he presently crept softly behind the throne on which the king and his consort were seated, and, bending down, gave the king a violent tweak. His Majesty leapt to his feet, and, clutching the injured spot, glared wrathfully around. The culprit overwhelmed himself with apologies. "Pinched the king—oh, woe the day!—but poor jester must be forgiven—it was a mistake—truly nothing but a mistake—he had firmly believed he was pinching the queen!"

A Sure Cure for a Cold in the Head.

It was discovered by a doctor who was himself so accustomed to get violent colds in the head that he used to be reduced to a state quite unsuited for visiting patients. It is unpleasant and requires self-control, but truly its effects are magical. The whole secret is this—drink nothing, nothing whatsoever. Not a drop of fluid must pass the lips for twenty-four hours, and after that only in very limited quantities till recovery is complete. The patient must not fast at all, or that works against the cure—you must eat your meals just as usual. There is a logical sort of reason discernible for this method of procedure. If no fluid is taken into the body, the system has to draw upon what is already there, and the supply not being equal to the demand, none can be spared to allow of running eyes and nose and the other equally unromantic symptoms of a cold in the head. Many ladies, when they hear that this cure necessitates the giving up of the afternoon cup of tea for a day, declare the cure to be worse than the complaint; but if you have an important appointment next day, and mean to look your best at any cost, remember the "no drink cure," and bravely endure the necessary discomfort to shake off this wretched, disfiguring winter ailment.

Fashions in Sleeves.

One of the peculiarities of this winter's fashions in sleeves is the unreasonable and chilly custom of making even the warmest of cloth and velvet gowns with sleeves of the lightest and most fragile of materials—tulle, net, chiffon, silk gauze, and so on. Generally there is a yoke, or at least a collar, of the same delicate substance, but that is generally lined, whereas the tight-fitting sleeves are left unlined. Of course, the material is tucked or gauged, or gathered in some manner. Very often it is made to form a frill edged with narrow lace all down the back of the arm. But, whatever be the material, the truly fashionable sleeve is perfectly tight-fitting. Indeed, to be thoroughly up-to-date, it must be so moulded to the arm that it is quite impossible to pass the hand through the wrist-opening. Thus the sleeves have to be made to open as far as the elbow, and be fastened up after being put on. A serried row of tiny buttons, with cord-loops, is one of the methods adopted, while another is to use the patent clips that we have inside our plaquet-holes. Probably you know these fasteners can be bought on strips by the yard at most drapers. Three-quarter sleeves are dying, slowly but surely. The newest sleeves are very long indeed; ofttimes the frill round the cuff falls right to the tip of the fingers. In a smart dress worn in "Bellamy the Magnificent," the tucked black net sleeves are made to end practically in the form of mittens. They come right up to the knuckles, and have a hole made for the thumb to pass through.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?
See Page iii. of Cover.

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Purveyors to H.M. King Edward VII.

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Guaranteed
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"There is no mystery about "Cerebos Salt. It is simply salt to "which has been added a definite "proportion of phosphates. This "addition prevents the salt from "caking; and adds substances of distinct dietetic importance. Cerebos "Salt is, therefore, both a culinary "and dietetic improvement."

The Lancet, March 16, 1907.

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A Lead Lined Chest containing 14 lbs. net weight of

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carriage paid to any station in Great Britain.

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Benger's Food is sold in tins by Chemists, etc., everywhere.

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The Cures effected by Stone's Salve in cases of Chronic Rheumatism almost border on the miraculous.

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I want to prove to every reader of JOHN BULL that I can give value for value about 10/- in the pound more than any ordinary retail shop.

HERE IS A PROOF—I will forward on receipt of P.O., value 7/6, a suit of NATURAL CASHMERE Underwear (all wool), comprising Pants and Vest; or, if preferred, a Suit of Natural Lamb's Wool. The extraordinary value I am offering in these goods is undoubted, and I am only looking for a profitable return from the repeat orders I am convinced I shall receive.

NOTE.—To every reader of JOHN BULL ordering either of the above bargains, I will give free with each suit—3 Fine Linen Collars.

If desired Two Vests or Two Pairs of Pants may be had in place of complete Suit. The Vests are made either long or short sleeves.

Write for my illustrated book "Shirt Talk" sent post free.

J. W. COATES,
(Shirt and Underwear Specialist),
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by OZERINE. It has cured permanently the worst cases of EPILEPSY when everything else had failed. From the first dose fits usually cease. Sent to all parts of the world, 4s. 6d. and 11s. post free. Thousands of testimonials. Write for a Free Bottle and full particulars to L.W. Nicholl, Pharmaceutical Chemist (Dept. 35), 26, High Street, Belfast.

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Thousands of sufferers are sending for these wonderful little tablets, and being cured—absolutely cured—of all kinds of Nervous, Stomach, Liver and Kidney Complaints, Rheumatic Affections, Organic Weakness, &c. They are a quick, safe and certain remedy, a real elixir of life in bottles, 1/-, 2/6, 5/- and 10/-, P-and P.O. direct to us to-day. We will return your money if not quite satisfied.—Dept. V.

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Instant Relief in Asthma, Bronchitis, Croup, and Whooping Cough by the use of Potter's Asthma Cure, in 1/- Tins. Sold everywhere. For FREE SAMPLE send post card to POTTER & CLARKE, LTD., Artillery Lane, London, E. (Mention this Magazine.

Instant Relief.

RACING NOTES.

By W. Lottings.

("*Larry Lynx*" of "*The People*," and "*Magpie*" of "*The Globe*.")

Keeping Fit.

Mr. J. M. Kerne, who will again be one of our strongest supporters of steeplechasing this winter, has for some months been mountaineering in Austria to keep fit.

Mocassin is One of Them.

Some horses, especially big, striding animals, often seem to win races with any amount in hand, but, as a fact, they could not score with an ounce more to spare. If their jockeys "moved," or tried to get more out of them, they would probably lose altogether. Yet there are many of this type of animal which invariably give their connections false impressions, and cost them money in consequence.

Not "Over the Sticks."

One of the cleverest skits is the most amusing "official card" produced by that sportsman-comedian Joe Elvin. Everything and everybody is caricatured in it. The opening event is the "Skinner plate for bookies who have never had one bad day before the time of entry." The owners named are distinctly clever as also the nomenclature of the competitors such as Mr. Owen Moran's World's Champion by Dukes—Brum, and Mr. Dagonet's Tatcho by Barnet Fair—Moulding.

A Curious Point.

In procuring a few thoroughbreds for export to South Africa recently, there arose a certain experience which somewhat suggests the necessity of an official ruling upon the point. After the Rustic Selling Welter, the winner and a whole troop of the runners, as usual at this venue and this season of the year, were submitted to auction. Among them was Thura, a stylish three-year-old chestnut filly, by Morganatic from Amphithura, who was well backed, ran well, and is a distinctly useful mare. Mr. C. J. Merry was merely weeding her out by reason of desiring to keep only horses of good class and something rather more reliable, so that he can have his occasionally-desired substantial wager. Thura was the sixth on the list to enter the ring, and after considerable competition—mainly between Fred Hunt, the trainer, and the writer—was knocked down to me at 155 gns. —which equalled £162 15s. Hunt had been the penultimate bidder, and after missing getting the horse, went, it seems, back to the weighing room, and put in a claim for the mare through the owner of something else that ran in the race, at the entered selling price plus the value of the stake—in all £150, this being really £12 15s. *less* than she had been knocked down at. The rule says that any competitors are open to be claimed within a quarter of an hour of the race. In the heat of the moment one does not time things, and I naturally assumed that the claim was in order. But I had paid for the mare, had obtained delivery of the order and the mare herself, and it was mere chance that she had not already left Lingfield. In fact, it was quite an hour later that I learned of the claim. All these matters should be give and take, so I was naturally reluctant to press the claim, and therefore relinquished possession. The double shot in this sense may be somewhat smart, but hardly what sportsmen would term "cricket." The only deduction one can gain is that it is a compliment to their judgment in making the purchase.

Prophetic.

With the Cambridgeshire over, there is very little to anticipate of the immediate moment. Certosa (should he not have won in the interim at Newmarket) and Cargill (dependent upon how he runs in the Cambridgeshire) are likely to pick up races during the next week, both being engaged at Lincoln; while at Alexandra Park on Saturday the Kempton form suggests that Arthur Playfair will win the October Nursery.

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We are also giving away Watches, Rings, Air-Guns, Musical Instruments, etc.

IT NEED NOT COST YOU A PENNY OF YOUR OWN MONEY.

Send name and address (a postcard will do) and we will send you return 30 Xmas and New Year Cards together with our Xmas presents list.

Don't Delay.

Send To-day.

When sold remit us the money and we will give you a prize from our list, containing over 100 beautiful gifts. If you do not wish a present you may make any other selection from our new presents list.

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and Chronic Chest Troubles.

Mr. Churchill.

Quite Cured after 30 years.

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Veno's Lightning Cough Cure is the Safest and Purest Remedy for:—
COUGHS & COLDS. BRONCHITIS. WEAK LUNGS. ASTHMA. NASAL CATARRH. CHILDREN'S COUGHS.

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OUR WEEKLY BALLOT FOR FIFTY HELPERS AT A GUINEA APIECE.

Every copy of JOHN BULL bears upon its cover a distinctive number, and every week FIFTY of such numbers will be drawn and published on this page.

To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL of specified date bearing any of such numbers we will, upon production of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number, pay the sum of ONE GUINEA, in return for his (or her) using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation.

The following claims have been received for issues of June 20th, August 22nd, 29th, September 5th and 12th:—

ALBERT FREEMAN, 16, Goldington Crescent, St. Pancras. (No. 114579—June 20th.)
A. HOLLIDAY, 5, E. Hermitage Place, Leith. (No. 113251—August 22nd.)
Mrs. ETHEL BEARPARK, 16, East Park Avenue, Hull. (No. 7561—August 29th.)
JOHN ROGERS, Embankment Road, Prince Rock, Plymouth. (No. 4056—September 5th.)
W. W. RENSON, 4, Major Terrace, Felling-on-Tyne. (No. 83223—September 5th.)
Mrs. F. HARWOOD, 31, Yardley Street, Weston Park, Sheffield. (No. 122269—September 12th.)
J. T. BAKER, 79, Western Road, Hove. (No. 64372—September 12th.)
K. THOMAS, 149, Huddleston Road, Tufnell Park, N. (No. 76154—September 12th.)

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of Sept. 26:—

2887; 3662; 4491; 26698; 32840; 36526; 38377; 38947; 40020; 45222; 48924; 53517; 53836; 54272; 55401; 63360; 67000; 70861; 71247; 73048; 74051; 77949; 83261; 85076; 90480; 93387; 99772; 102316; 106337; 113770; 120939; 122174; 126168; 129457; 130179; 136596; 138287; 140862; 144866; 148068; 148338; 151665; 152442; 157929; 158778; 159533; 161058; 161769; 162718; 166627.

INITIAL ROUGHED SHOULD BE DISREGARDED, BUT FINAL ONES ARE, OF COURSE, RECKONED.

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED DECEMBER 5th (PUBLISHED DECEMBER 3rd).

"John Bull's" Great Christmas Box Scheme.

£5,000 WORTH OF PRESENTS FOR OUR READERS.

TWO PIANOS.
TWENTY BICYCLES.
ONE HUNDRED WATCHES.
ONE HUNDRED UMBRELLAS.
ONE HUNDRED CLOCKS.
TEN GENTLEMEN'S DRESSING BAGS.
TEN LADIES' DRESSING BAGS.
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SIX SILVER TEA AND COFFEE SERVICES.
TWENTY DINNER SERVICES.
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ONE HUNDRED BOXES OF CHRISTMAS CRACKERS.
ONE HUNDRED BEAUTIFUL DOLLS.
ONE HUNDRED BOXES OF TOYS.
ONE HUNDRED SETS OF STANDARD BOOKS.
FIVE HUNDRED FRAMED PRINTS, IN SEVEN COLOURS, OF THE ORIGINAL CHARACTER OF "JOHN BULL."
ONE HUNDRED CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS.
ONE HUNDRED CAKES.
ONE HUNDRED DOZEN MINCE PIES.
ONE HUNDRED BOXES OF CRYSTALLISED FRUIT.
TWELVE CASES OF BRANDY, WHISKY, PORT, SHERRY, AND GIN.
ONE HUNDRED TURKEYS.
ONE HUNDRED GEESE.
FIFTY BOXES OF CIGARS.
ONE HUNDRED FOUNTAIN PENS.
ONE HUNDRED BOXES OF BROCK'S CHRISTMAS CRACKERS.

That will do to go on with. We will amplify the list from time to time.

NOW, WHICH OF THESE PRESENTS WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE? It rests entirely with you.

One of the PIANOS will be presented to the LADY READER and one to the GENTLEMAN READER who sends us in—between now and December 15th—the greatest number of coupons, as printed below and which will appear in each of our issues till then.

All the rest of the Prizes will be apportioned on a similar basis amongst those who fail to secure a Piano, and ALL OTHER READERS who send in coupons in the period just mentioned. The more coupons, the more valuable the prize.

A PRIZE COMMITTEE

Consisting of the Editor and six others will apportion the gifts—their decision is to be final:—

HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, Esq., M.P. (Editor).
HERBERT VIVIAN, Esq.
J. S. ELIAS, Esq., Director and Manager of Odhams Limited,
And others to be subsequently announced.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO COMPETITORS.

Readers desirous of retaining the benefit of the number on the Cover of any copy given away need simply copy such number on the back of the coupon sent in to us. There is no necessity, therefore, to cut the number out of the cover before sending or giving the copy away.

We cannot supply copies for distribution, in connection with this Scheme, as our printing presses are already heavily taxed, and it is essential that CURRENT ISSUES should be seen by PROSPECTIVE NEW READERS.

In view of the heavy work involved in the examination of claims, we shall be obliged if our readers will send in any coupons they may have in hand up to the end of the present month; and, further, if they will adopt a similar course at the end of November.

COUPON.

To be posted to, or left at, the Publishing Offices of JOHN BULL, 67, Long Acre, London, W.C., singly or in any quantities, at the end of the months of October and November, but **not later than six o'clock on the evening of December 15th.**

I have sent, or handed, a copy of JOHN BULL to

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with whom I am personally acquainted, and have recommended him (or her) to become a regular reader of it; and in the event of my securing one of your Christmas Prizes, I am prepared, if requested by the Prize Committee, to give any further information which they may reasonably require.

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Write distinctly. .....

NOTE.—This coupon may be cut out of the paper you send or hand to your friend or acquaintance. **31/10/08.**

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